

THE INDEPENDENT

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IS THIS THE MOST HATED CHEF IN BRITAIN?
DEBORAH ROSS, REVIEW FRONT



NEW SPORT SECTION

Bloodshed stains Kosovo talks

THE SMOULDERING ruins of the village of Svrhe marked what was supposed to be Kosovo's last weekend of war, as Serbs and Kosovo Albanians drew to Paris for talks that will either end the fighting or mark a new and deadly phase in its acceleration.

BY EMMA DALY
in Svrhe
AND MARCUS TANNER

hard to imagine diplomats at far-off Rambouillet ending the cycle of bloodshed. "Children were crying, women were weeping and we were running, falling over, and you couldn't hear anything but the constant shooting and shelling," said Ajeta Gashi, who returned with me to Svrhe to check on the damage. We found the houses smoking, flames licking the walls where the roofs had started

to collapse. "They launched a surprise attack, which started at 6 o'clock in the morning," an Albanian fighter said. "We were outnumbered."

In the woods a few miles away, Maliq Dobruna waited beside his tractor, the trailer filled to bursting with his wife, eight children and other relatives. Farther north, smoke billowed above the villages of Milajic and Drvar. Zymer Zeneli showed us his home, where the Serbs had huddled around bedding, papers, clothing and food, thrown an armchair down a

well, and ripped up passports. The family snapshots lay scattered and shredded in the garden. "We worked so hard for this and now it's all destroyed," he said. But the Zenelis escaped. In towns and cities across Kosovo, hospitals were struggling with the tide of dead and wounded from a series of weekend bombings. The death toll from the blasts rose to seven dead and 58 wounded as doctors struggled to cope with the number of people needing surgery. The explosions bore a sinister re-

semblance to the market-place blasts that killed dozens and maimed many more in Sarajevo in the 1992-95 war between Bosnia's Serbs and Muslims. In the northern town of Mitrovica, where four were killed in an explosion in a vegetable market on Saturday, Arsim Sulejmani said: "We saw terrible things: legs, hands, limbs, lots of blood."

Behind the stall where he was selling apples, onions and potatoes when the blast occurred, a trader lifted two wooden boxes to show the mangled remains of a hand and some fingers. As the delegations reached France it seemed only a miracle could save Kosovo from more disasters. While the Albanians indicated they would sign a US-drafted peace agreement as soon as today, the Yugoslav delegation was under strict orders from President Slobodan Milosevic not even to discuss the proposed deployment of Nato troops - the key component of the proposed deal. The plan would provide Kosovo, where the population

is 90 per cent Albanian, with autonomy, backed by a deployment of 28,000 Nato troops. In London, the Foreign Secretary, Robin Cook, reiterated that Nato remained poised to strike if an agreement is not reached, and warned Mr Milosevic that his government "may have to take the consequences" if it rejected a deal. The feebly worried threat seemed only to underline the disarray in the ranks of the big powers over what to do next if, as seems almost certain, no agreement follows from Rambouillet. In

Svrhe, the villagers said they hoped the latest bloodshed would concentrate people's minds in France. "We are really hoping for something good in Paris," said Mr Gashi as the burning roof of his home finally fell in with a great crash. In the distance the rebel fighters of the Kosovo Liberation Army could be heard chanting a song that testified to a willingness to fight on: "We can't stand slavery, we're going to win; we will liberate this land." **Leading article, Review, page 3**

Judges 'rob' Lewis of world title

THERE WERE calls for Lennox Lewis to be awarded an instant rematch against Evander Holyfield after the fight between the two world heavyweight champions at Madison Square Garden on Saturday night ended in a controversial draw. Lewis, who had waited 10 years for his chance to win the undisputed title, will now have to wait a little longer to rectify what he and his camp see as a serious injustice.

BY RICHARD WILLIAMS
in New York

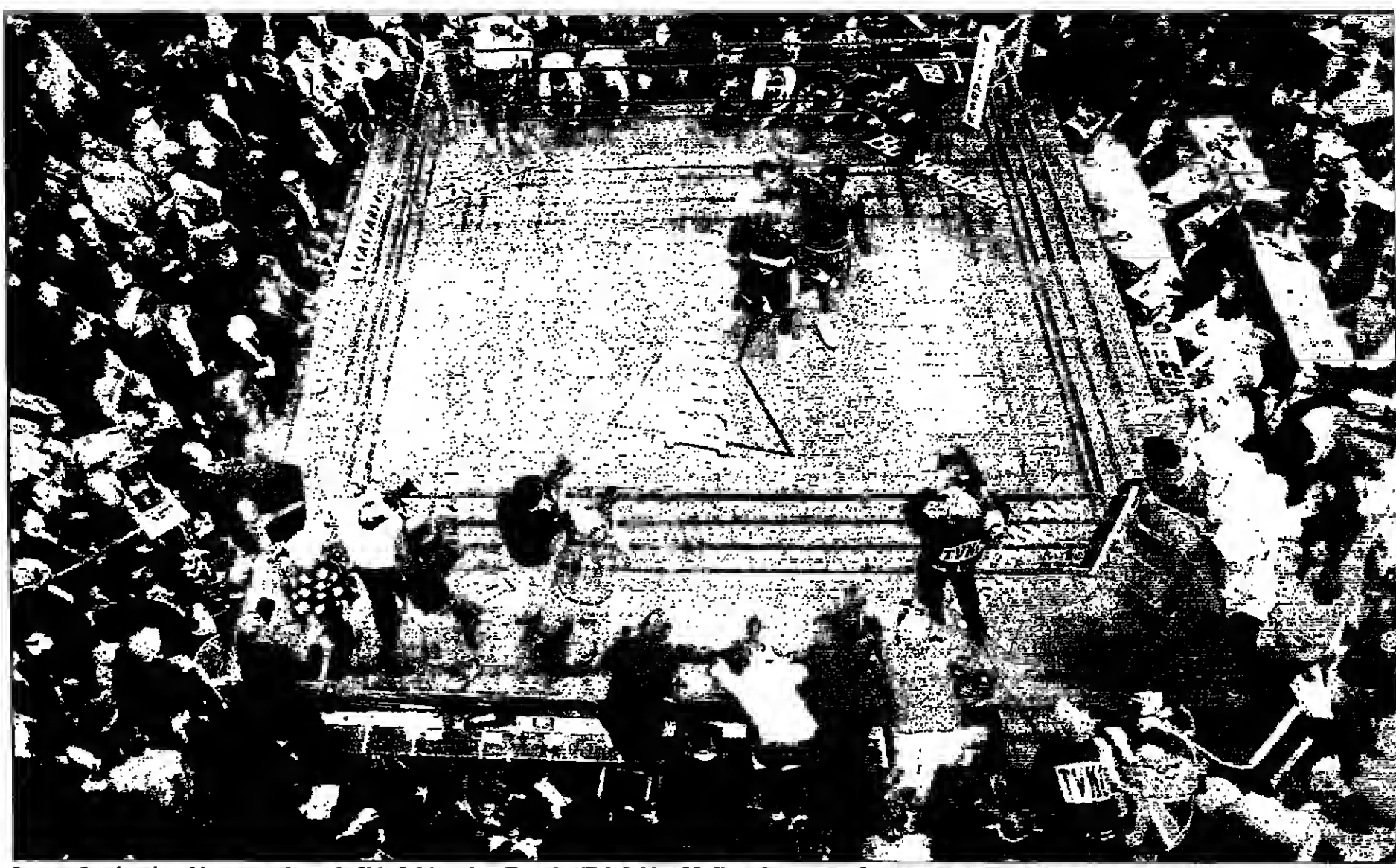
with God and I come out with God," he said. "Usually the decisions don't go my way. I had a blessed day today, thank the Lord. Lewis really shooed. He proved he was tough and that he's good for the game of boxing. In six months, if he wants to get it on, let's get it on. It's no problem with me."

Blame was levelled at the British judge, Larry O'Connell, a Kent engraver who scored the fight even, and at Jean Williams, the US judge, who gave the fight to Holyfield. But there were dark mutterings of the sort that tend to accompany any fight promoted by the flamboyant Don King, to whom a Lewis victory would have meant the end of his grip on the heavyweight division.

Among the more predictably extreme reactions was that of Frank Maloney, Lewis's manager. "If I was Tony Blair," he said, "I'd cut off all diplomatic relations with the United States. It's an absolute con."

Tony Banks, the Sports minister, added: "It was a bad night for boxing. The judging appears to have been hazy and the result gives rise to the thought that it was more about business than sport. We need a rematch and it should be in this country."

Other boxers were quick to support Lewis. Frank Bruno, the last Briton to fight for the undisputed title, described it as "the most disgusting decision I've ever seen in a boxing ring. Lennox made the fight look easy". Chris Eubank called it "a travesty of justice". **Full story, Sport Section**



Lennox Lewis raises his arm at the end of his fight against Evander Holyfield at Madison Square Garden, New York. The fight was ruled a draw **Al Bello/Allsport**

Lloyd's chiefs face fraud charges over £5.4bn

A GRAND JURY in New York is to examine allegations that Lloyd's insurance market recruited 3,000 American members by hiding liabilities of £5.4bn from them.

The legal move will be the first step in a process that could see senior figures at Lloyd's facing charges of fraud in America over a secret policy dubbed "recruit and dilute". No

one has been prosecuted in the UK over the £11bn losses dumped on unsuspecting recruits during the disastrous insurance years of the Eighties. Twenty thousand new members - or names - were allegedly drawn into the market on the strength of figures that showed no hint of an

impending flood of claims for asbestos pollution and illness. British names have demanded that charges be brought against senior Lloyd's officials who, they claim, knew about the deluge of claims to come, but did nothing to warn them. While the authorities here appear content to let the market regulate itself, US prosecutors are gunning for Lloyd's.

It is understood that the American Federal Post Office service is close to laying evidence before a grand jury in a bid to launch criminal proceedings. Two investigators from the Post Office - who have police powers - visited Britain last year to gather evidence. Sources say that the men believe they have a prima facie case of fraud.

If charges are brought, they will centre on allegations that Lloyd's sent misleading material to American names during negotiations to settle losses in the early Nineties. Those negotiations involved names bailing their losses capped in return for agreeing not to take legal action against Lloyd's. It has emerged that Lloyd's lawyers in America, Mendes & Mount and Lord, Bissell & Brook, sent annual reports to London warning of precise numbers of "asbestos bodily injury" claims in the US. Lloyd's said it knew nothing of any grand jury hearing. A spokesman refused to discuss claims that information had been withheld from names, other than to say there was no evidence to suggest it had been.

INSIDE THIS SECTION

Gun attack in Dublin
A gunman opened fire on players and spectators at an amateur football match **Home, page 2**

NSPCC report
Up to two children die from abuse or neglect each week **Home, page 4**

Phillips declares intent
The broadcaster Trevor Phillips is entering the race for Mayor of London **Home, page 5**

EU sleaze inquiry
Edith Cresson has held talks with the investigating team **Foreign, page 8**

End to Afghan strife
Twenty years of civil war in Afghanistan appeared to be nearing an end yesterday **Foreign, page 9**

Gore prepares for poll
Al Gore is visiting key states of New Hampshire and Iowa **Foreign, page 10**

Banking on flotation
The French Government has launched the privatisation of Credit Lyonnais **Business, page 13**

England's injury loss
Paul Grayson will miss the rest of the Five Nations **Sport Section, page 8**

INSIDE THE REVIEW

Donald MacIntyre
A mayor of London with kids in private schools? Why not? **Comment P3**

Andreas Whittam Smith
Is the church one generation away from extinction? **Comment P4**

Imre Karacs
Now the German Chancellor can declare himself a Blairite **Comment P5**

Years before bedtime
How to persuade your children to go to sleep **Features P8**



THE INDEPENDENT ABROAD			
Amsterdam	6.50	Amsterdam	12.00
Berlin	5.00	Berlin	5.00
Brussels	1.00	Brussels	0.00
Copenhagen	2.50	Copenhagen	0.00
Dublin	1.20	Dublin	0.00
Edinburgh	1.12	Edinburgh	0.00
Frankfurt	24.00	Frankfurt	24.00
Geneva	15.00	Geneva	15.00
Hamburg	16.00	Hamburg	16.00
London	5.00	London	5.00
Madrid	1.00	Madrid	1.00
Paris	25.00	Paris	25.00

HOME 2-7, FOREIGN 8-12, BUSINESS 13-17, SHARES 18, JOHN WALSH 19, CRYPTIC CROSSWORD 19, WEATHER 2

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Battle of Crystal Palace becomes a farce

LOOKING ACROSS the wide and windswept park, your eye picks out some handsome features: two plaster sphinxes flanking a gong concrete staircase, a procession of neoclassical alcoves, a noble balustrade. The architecture suggests that we are approaching something unimaginably grand, like the pyramids, or a temple to the Nine Muses...

But there's nothing at the end of this road. The magnificent glass structure - the Crystal Palace - that was built in Hyde Park by Joseph Paxton for the Great Exhibition in 1851 and relocated south of the Thames three years later, was destroyed in a fire in 1936. No one had the heart to disturb its charred foundations - but soon there will be something new for these steps and sphinxes to lead towards. And the inhabitants of this London suburb are dreading its arrival.

It's a "multiplex" - a palace of varieties conceived on epic lines. At its centre will be eighteen cinema screens, nine "restaurants", a bowling alley and three "leisure boxes", each big enough to accommodate a music venue or a "family entertainment centre". It will be as long as two football stadiums laid side by side. The plans show a long, low tray-shaped structure, both futuristic and deadly dull, with parking space for 950 cars on the roof.

This is the £56m levathan that has united mild, middle-class protesters and dreadlocked, earth-burrowing eco-warriors in joint (if not parallel) endeavour for the past 12 months. Ever since 1996, when Bromley Council began inviting development suggestions, the locals have been suspicious, then hostile, then at war. The Crystal Palace Campaign got under way two years ago, and is chaired by Philip Kolvin, a Gray's Inn barrister. It boasts 1,500 volunteers in five boroughs.

"Bromley wanted to attract developers at any price," said Ken Lewinson, the campaign's deputy chair, "so they said, 'We will let the market determine the leisure mix'. Whatever makes the most money seemed to be the main criterion."

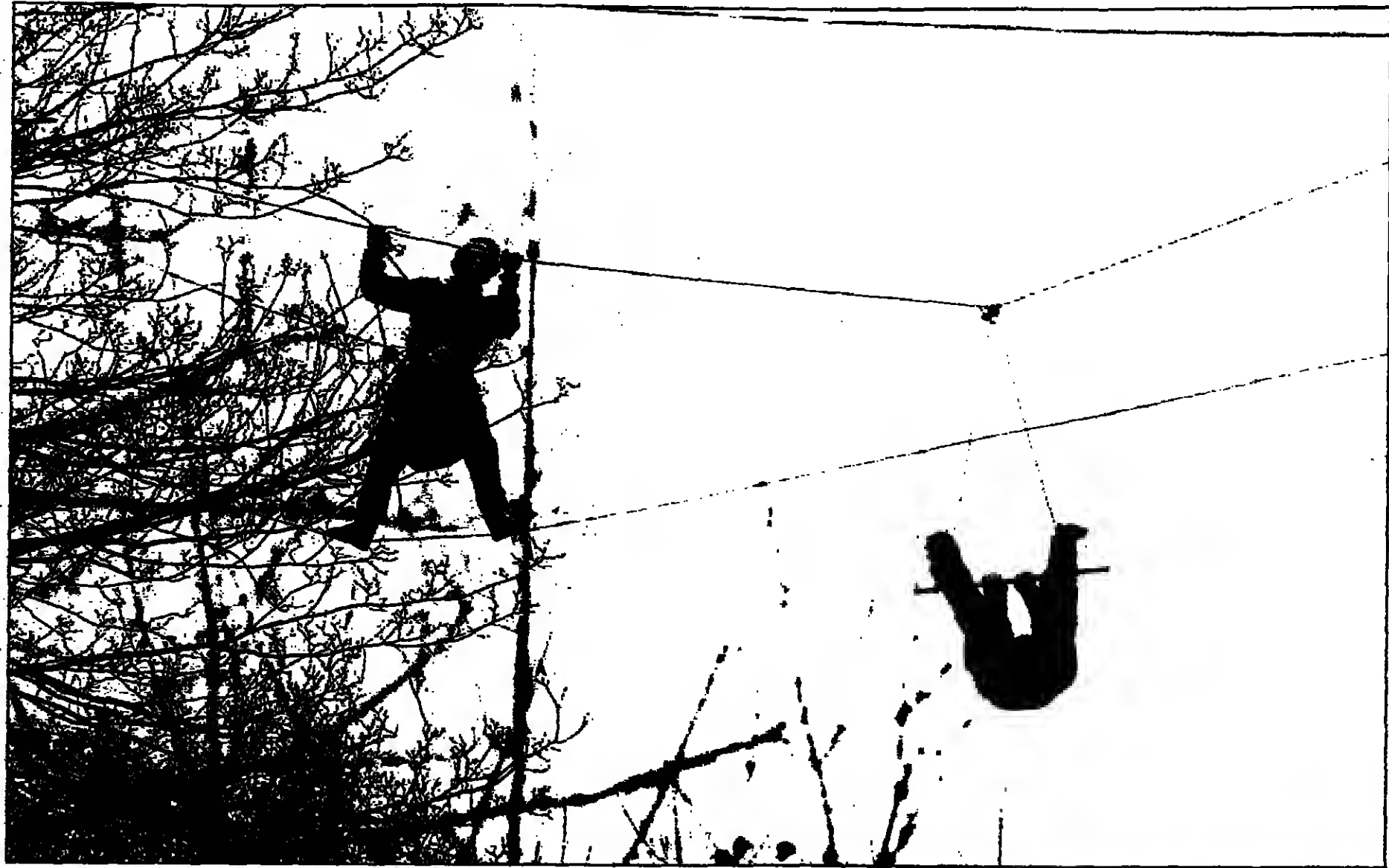
The free market would never do for SE19. It's not a conspicuously genteel suburb. It has fast-food outlets and urban blight. But there's a lot of civic pride around, along with the second-hand bookshops and Thai restaurants. Palace dwellers affect to dread the traffic that will gum up the streets every night, the fumes, the chaos, the dubious 2am strollers, the drug dealers that will prey on the 15 to 25-year-olds who are the multiplex's ideal customers; and you can hear in their voices the words "Bang goes the neighbourhood".

"It's not a class matter," said Celia Randall, a garden designer and the campaign's most articulate lobbyist. "The objection isn't about taste but about the scale of the thing. It's inappropriate because it's a giant enterprise and will need huge numbers of people to make it work. It's on the same scale as Atton Towers. The streets around here just can't cope with the invasion of cars and people."

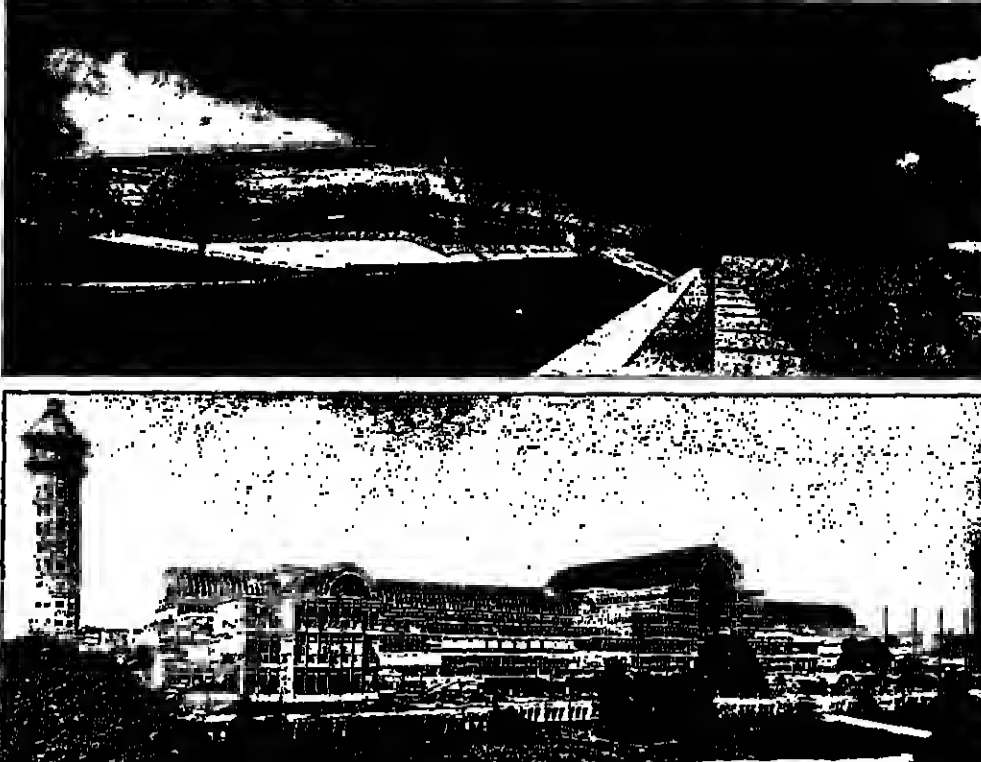
Though Crystal Palace sits at the edge of five London boroughs - Southwark, Lewisham, Croydon, Lambeth and Bromley - the Park is owned by Bromley. The centre of Bromley, its high street and shopping centre, is four miles away from the heart of Crystal Palace, which will have to cope with the fallout from its greedy neighbour's latest in park "regeneration". It is cold comfort that the inhabitants of Bromley will soon be faced with a colossal bill for policing the battleground that the former "Fresh Air Suburb" has become.

The campaign has lobbied the Environment Ministry the previous July, in 1997, and succeeded in getting Bromley's planning application put on hold. But in March 1998, John Prescott gave his decision: the plans complied with all legal stipulations. Bromley, he said, "may determine this application as they think fit".

As the middle-class professionals running the campaign tried new legal avenues to block planning permission, the eco-warriors arrived in April, built



An eco-warrior taming a bailiff in the trees at the Crystal Palace site in south-east London where local feeling is running high against the planned 'multiplex' Chris Sharp



The planned £56m leisure complex (top left) and the original Crystal Palace of 1851. Campaigners (right) standing by the site fence as a guard looks on David Rose



towers from wood and metal girders, tunnelled into the earth, swarmed into the trees and rechristened the palace site "Big Willow Eco Village". Bromley Council got tough. Anyone helping the crusties found themselves summoned to the High Court. Mrs Joan Yaxley, a local pensioner, found herself arraigned for having brought the demonstrators a dish of bread-and-butter pudding. Ken Lewinson received a writ because he spoke to an Evening Standard journalist on the site for 10 minutes. Suzanne Elkin, a campaign

secretary hooted her car horn when passing the demonstrators last week, and was stopped by a police bike half a mile further. A whiff of the secret state came from Bromley Councillor David Bartlett who declared on television: "If anyone has indicated their support for the occupation of this site, we shall name them. They will have an opportunity to explain themselves in court". On 4 March, the police and security guards arrived in force, 2,000 of them chasing 50 eco-warriors, plucking them out of the trees with a cherry-picker crane, dismantling the towers, digging up the tunnels. The Parade was closed to cars, buses and walkers all day. Schoolchildren were abandoned by their buses. The cost of the weeks of surveillance and the ultimate eviction has been estimated at £2m.

HEALTH: THE RISKS OF UNDIAGNOSED LYME DISEASE PLUS MEDIA

FRANKIE, BRIAN VINER, BRIAN WHITMAN SMITH

gloom as session bites

BY DIANE COLE

It's a gloom as session bites. The House of Commons is in session, and the atmosphere is one of gloom. The session is expected to be a tough one, with many important issues to be debated. The opposition is expected to have a strong performance, and the government is expected to be on the defensive. The session is expected to be a tough one, with many important issues to be debated. The opposition is expected to have a strong performance, and the government is expected to be on the defensive.

h strike over t to duty-free

BY LINDA GIBSON

A strike over duty-free goods is expected to take place. The strike is expected to be a significant one, with many workers expected to be involved. The strike is expected to be a significant one, with many workers expected to be involved. The strike is expected to be a significant one, with many workers expected to be involved.

Rent-a-lie service offers philanderers an alibi

BY ANDREW BUNCOMBE

FOR SPOUSES trying to convince a partner that a weekend tryst in Amsterdam was really spent at a pig-rearing conference in Slough, help is at hand. Plunging headlong into new depths, a company is offering ready-made alibis. All the cheating partner has to do is

often helped out friends by providing an alibi for them if they were "playing away". So we decided there could be a demand for such a service and so far we've been proved right.

The agency, which says that it has had 100 people sign up, can also provide faked documents and invitations that can add "evidence" to help back up the lies.

"People knock us, saying what we're doing is immoral and we have had abusive calls from some irate women. But we've also had women wanting to join up," said Mr Taylor, from Lytham St Annes. "So far we have not been sussed out by a client's partner yet but we do not guarantee they will not be caught out using our service."

The agency has drawn criticism for encouraging people to lie and cheat. The Venerable John Barton, Archdeacon of Aston, Birmingham, said: "If any of these fake documents are produced by a party during divorce proceedings then I would have thought the company could be prosecuted for perjury and I hope they get the high jump."

They seem to be actively promoting infidelity and dishonesty by providing such a disservice. Julia Cole, of the Relate marriage-guidance counselling service, said: "It's a disastrous and immoral idea. It is setting people up to deceive in a relationship rather than addressing their problems that might have led to an extra-marital affair. It doesn't solve the problem a relationship may be suffering but serves to perpetuate it."

Mr Taylor remains unapologetic. He said his website had been visited by potential cheats from other parts of Europe, Japan and the US.

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Two children a week die from abuse

BY CLARE GARNER

UP TO two children die from child abuse or neglect every week in Britain, and many more go unrecorded, according to a new report by the NSPCC, the most comprehensive ever into child deaths.

Despite public perceptions, only five or six of the 100-odd annual child murders are committed by strangers. In the majority of cases, the perpetrator is a family member, the children's charity report shows.

The Independent has obtained an early draft of the report "Out of Sight", which is due to be published later this week. It reviews deaths from abuse over the past 25 years, and highlights how the abuse of children and young people remains hidden from society.

One contributor, John Fitzgerald, chief executive of the Bridge Child Care Development Service, wrote: "It is outrageous that over 1,000 children die every decade following abuse and neglect."

"If by developing our knowledge and skills, we could collectively halve the number over the next 10 years, that would mean saving the lives of at least 500 children as well as preventing countless life-threatening or disabling injuries."

The NSPCC report coincides with the launch tomorrow of its

nationwide campaign to end cruelty to children within a generation. The "Full Stop" campaign features hard-hitting television advertisements designed to open everyone's eyes to child abuse, and to show that most cruelty to children occurs at home.

Another contributor, Dr Jane Wynne, a leading paediatrician at the Leeds General Infirmary, has identified a strong correlation between social deprivation and the death rate of children under the age of two. The excess mortality in the socially disadvantaged children continues throughout childhood, she claims.

Children are most at risk of being killed before they reach the age of one (40 per cent), Dr Wynne notes. A further 20 per cent of child murders occur before the age of four, and the remainder occur up to 15.

Forty-nine per cent of child murders are committed by the father, stepfather or partner of the child's mother, according to Dr Wynne's research. Thirty-three per cent are committed by the child's mother, 4 per cent by siblings, and most of the rest by people who are unrelated but provide care to the child.

Dr Wynne, who is an NSPCC trustee, lists some of the reasons given to explain a murder. They include escalating punishment, as part of "domestic

violence", an unwanted baby (which may be disabled), a psychotic parent, and as part of child sexual abuse.

The public is ill-informed about the prevalence of child murders at the hands of relatives or care-givers because of the media's highly selective coverage, according to a study carried out this year by the Glasgow Media Group as part of the NSPCC report.

It shows a sharp decline in the volume of media coverage of child deaths between the 1980 and 1998 and claims the media is only interested in blaming professionals or strangers, not family members.

Professor Roy Meadow, president of the British Paediatric Society, conducted an 18-year study of 81 children who were thought to have died of natural causes but turned out to have been killed by their parents.

He wrote in the report: "It is a national scandal that we accept a situation in which so many young children die of unknown causes."

"If one out of every thousand 21-year-olds died suddenly and unexpectedly without an identifiable cause, there would be a national scandal."

The report includes a table of children who died between 1973 and 1998, detailing the causes of death as well as the perpetrators.



The Green Arrow, a traditional steam locomotive, made a return trip from Marylebone Station in London, where trainspotters watched, to High Wycombe Station for the London station's 100th anniversary celebration

Tom Craig

MI5 'bury' evidence in bombing

APPEAL COURT judges will hold a secret hearing at the Strand Law courts today to decide whether a Public Interest Immunity (PII) certificate should prevent lawyers for two convicted Palestinians hearing evidence they believe may support their case.

Samar Alami and Jawad Botni were convicted in 1996 of conspiracy to bomb the Israeli embassy in London. New evidence suggests that MI5 were warned that the attack in 1994 was going to take place.

The two Palestinians are now serving 20 years in British prisons for their alleged part in

ROBERT FISK
Middle East Correspondent

the attack. But they have named the man they believe carried out the bombing as a Palestinian called Reda Moghrabi and suspect that they were "set up" for arrest.

When David Shayler, the former MI5 officer, revealed in the *Mail on Sunday* 11 months after their conviction that MI5 had received advance warning of the attack, Alami's solicitor, Gareth Peirce, immediately demanded to see the information which Shayler's colleagues had received.

The Home Secretary Jack Straw overruled MI5's attempt to suppress details of the case and allowed the *Mail on Sunday* to reveal that the MI5 report was "buried" in a cupboard where it was only found after the bombing.

MI5 had failed to pass on the details either to the police or to the Israelis themselves. Unless the appeal judges decide otherwise today, however, lawyers for the defence may never know details of the warning.

In the aftermath of the Gulf War, the government placed PII certificates on security documents which showed that the

Board of Trade had approved the sale of items of military use to Iraq by the firm Matrix Churchill.

Only when a judge ruled for their disclosure did the prosecution abandon its case against Matrix Churchill officials. "The method of dealing with this sort of material through PII is very questionable," a lawyer involved in European law said yesterday.

"It involves a hearing between the prosecution and a judge or appeal judges in the absence of the defence. This is a practice that is being challenged in the European courts."

Oddly, news of the forthcoming secret hearing does not appear to have been disclosed to the defence - as it should have been under law - and we may never know what was said.

Alami, who said she received explosives from Moghrabi for experiments with bombs which could be used against Israeli military targets near the Lebanese border, denies any involvement in the 1994 attack on the London embassy. Although the police acknowledged that the bomber was never arrested, they have shown no interest in finding Moghrabi.

CHILD MURDERS

- Between one and two children are killed by care-givers each week in the UK
- Five to six children are killed by strangers each year in the UK
- 49 per cent of the perpetrators are the child's father, step-father, or mother's partner
- 33 per cent of the perpetrators are the child's mother
- 4 per cent of perpetrators are siblings

- The rest of the perpetrators are unrelated but providing care to the child
- 40 per cent of deaths due to homicide occur before the age of one
- 20 per cent of deaths due to homicide occur between the age of one and four
- The remainder occur between the age of five and 15

Statistics compiled by Dr Jane Wynne for the NSPCC report

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Broadcaster accused of exploiting Lawrence case in fight for mayor

BY PAUL WAUGH
Political Correspondent

THE PHONEY war over who should become the Mayor of London finally ended yesterday when broadcaster Trevor Phillips declared his intention to stand for the post.

After months of speculation, the gloves came off in the race when Mr Phillips announced that he was definitely entering the contest and wanted to run as a Labour candidate. Mr Phillips' decision to declare his candidacy means that he is only the third person, along with Ken Livingstone and Lord Archer of Weston-super-Mare, to publicly announce his aim to become Britain's first directly elected mayor.

The 45-year-old presenter of London Weekend Television's *London Programme* said he had decided to stand because recent reports of who was and was not in the running were in danger of turning the whole affair into "a farce".

"After 20 years of crusading for London as a reporter I think it's about time instead of just telling politicians what to do, I would like to play a part in making it happen," he said.

However, Mr Phillips was immediately plunged into controversy over his declaration that the Stephen Lawrence case was one of the main factors behind his decision to stand for mayor.

He said that "without any doubt at all", the inquiry into the racist murder of the London teenager had convinced him that more black people should get involved in public life.

"In the last few weeks, in the Lawrence discussion and debate, what we have seen in London is the fact that this is a city of great diversity. I think I can play a part in turning that diversity into our advantage. I would like to lead that city," he told BBC's *Breakfast* with Frost programme.

"We who come from minority communities have a right to say that we would like things to be better and different and to include us. But if we want that to happen, we also have a



Lord Archer of Weston-super-Mare

Why Mayor?
"This city needs a strategic approach to tackle its problems and needs someone banging the drum for it abroad."

Why Me?
"I've spent the past two years meeting the people that run things, seeing the problems and finding solutions."

My Rivals?
"I welcome all candidates who are prepared to take this seriously and do the hard work."

responsibility. That means we have to join the police and get involved with public affairs and I think that by doing this I might be giving a lead to some of my community."

But Tory sources alleged that Mr Phillips was "cynically" using public concern over the tragedy to justify his candidacy,



Ken Livingstone

Why Mayor?
"London needs a voice again. It needs to be given back its self-respect."

Why Me?
"I have screwed it up once. I will not do the same again. Of course I have yet to persuade Tony of that."

My Rivals?
"I welcome them all. The more the merrier as far as I'm concerned."

and outrageous," Mr Phillips told *The Independent*.

Mr Phillips was also called on by Lord Archer, the Tory front-runner, to give up his job as a current affairs presenter to avoid any potential conflict of interest or media bias.

"I just hope Trevor and all others who come aboard are



Trevor Phillips

Why Mayor?
"It's a great job. But it shouldn't be a circus about who Tony Blair likes and who William Hague says can stand."

Why Me?
"I want to send a signal that there are people who are serious and who want to do the best for the city."

My Rivals?
"I feel this shouldn't be a platform for people who are, frankly, near the back end of their political careers."

Recent reports have named Frank Dobson, the Secretary of State for Health and Mr Mowlem, the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, as the Labour leadership's favoured candidates for mayor, even though both have dismissed the idea. Other possible candidates include Nick Raynsford,

the minister for London, Glenda Jackson, the Transport minister, and Tony Banks, the Sports minister.

Mr Phillips was accused last year by the Tories of using his role as head of the "Yes" campaign in the referendum on the London mayoralty as a platform for his own ambitions.

Cleric may quit over women bishops

BY CLARE GARNER
Religious Affairs Correspondent

THE ARCHBISHOP of York, Dr David Hope, will resign if the Church of England decides to consecrate women bishops.

Dr Hope, the second most senior figure in the Church of England's hierarchy, has told friends that he could never take part in the consecration of women, adding: "I just couldn't stay in those circumstances."

Resignation would be the only "logical conclusion" if the church agreed to promote women priests, he has reportedly said. He is understood to be particularly concerned about the mounting pressure to abolish safeguards protecting opponents of women priests.

At present, the 1993 Act of Synod allows traditionalists who oppose women priests to be administered to by so-called "flying bishops". However, it is hard to see how this compromise could be maintained once women bishops get the go-ahead from the General Synod.

Many pro-women campaigners feel that, five years after the ordination of the first women priests, the time has come seriously to consider the question of women bishops, and a private member's motion to that effect is likely to be debated at the General Synod this year.

Dr Hope's uncompromising stance will provide a boost to the traditionalists, led by the Rev Geoffrey Kirk, of Forward in Faith, who intends to create a "Third Province" breakaway church if women bishops become a reality. Just as 140 priests left the Church of England over women priests, more are expected to depart in protest at women bishops.

Christina Rees, the chairwoman of Watch (Women and the Church), said: "It is very sad that the Archbishop of York feels he could not accommodate this development. I am convinced that God has shown the church that this is the direction to take."

Around 2,000 women have been ordained as priests, and female bishops exist in the Anglican Church abroad.

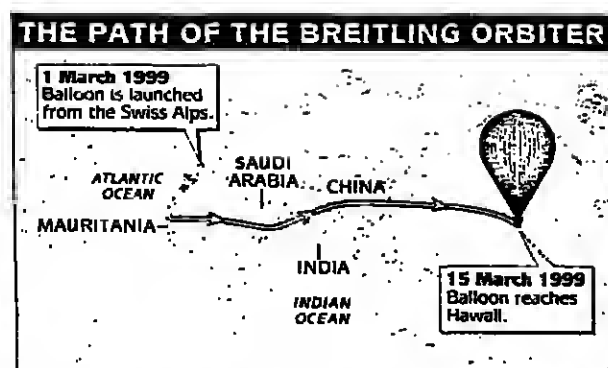
Balloonists on course for new world record

BY LINDSAY BARNES

A BRITISH-SWISS duo was on the verge of breaking the world distance record for a balloon flight last night and now looks poised to become the first to circumnavigate the globe in such an aircraft.

Good weather forecast for the next few days has increased the prospects for success for the British balloonist Brian Jones and his co-pilot Bertrand Piccard on their journey in the Swiss-sponsored balloon *Breitling Orbiter 3*.

They hope to arrive in North Africa by next weekend. Jones, 51, from Erieshtoke in Wiltshire, and Piccard, 41, launched from the Swiss Alps on 1 March. Yesterday they dodged thunder



clouds over the Pacific Ocean as they headed towards Hawaii at a speed of 47 knots (54mph). By yesterday evening they were just 50 miles short of the official world distance record of 14,852 miles, set last year in a

solo round-the-world bid by the American pilot Steve Fossett.

The best time of year for a successful circumnavigation by balloon is from November to February, when flight is

aided in the northern hemisphere by the gusting jet streams.

Tonight the *Breitling Orbiter 3* is expected to enter a favourable subtropical jet stream, blowing from the Equator, which could increase the speed to 125mph, putting them on course for victory.

The jet stream should carry the balloon over Mexico on Wednesday and across the Caribbean between Jamaica and Cuba into the North Atlantic for the last leg of the three-week journey.

The two men are reported to be in high spirits. "The past seven days above the ocean, seeing only water, has been difficult but they are doing well," said a spokeswoman.

IN BRIEF

Stunt skydiver out of hospital

THE RAF skydiver seriously injured in an accident at a football match last December has been discharged from hospital. Flight Sergeant Nigel Rogoff, 39, from Moseley, Birmingham, smashed both his legs and pelvis as he plunged 60ft in a half-time stunt that went wrong during the match between Arsenal and Aston Villa.

Boy, 10, killed by model plane

A 10-YEAR-OLD boy was killed when he was hit by a model aeroplane. The boy, certified dead at the scene, was struck during a model aircraft club display at Colney Heath, near St Albans, yesterday. An Ambulance Service spokeswoman said his father was with him at the time.

Remand prisoner aged 17 dies

A 17-YEAR-OLD remand prisoner, Steven John Govan from HMP Gateside in Greenock, Scotland, died yesterday in hospital, three days after being found unconscious in his cell by staff. He had been remanded to the prison on three charges of assault and robbery.

Frozen food batters chippies

THE FISH and chip shop is in danger of being frozen out by a rival supplier. Families are more likely to oven cook frozen fish and chips as a more convenient, healthier alternative to the chip shop, research for the Frozen Food Information Service showed.

National Lottery winners

Five winners shared Saturday's £7.3m National Lottery jackpot, each netting £1,475,972. Nineteen tickets matched five balls and the bonus ball to win £119,511. The winning numbers were 1, 2, 15, 17, 24 and 44; bonus ball 22.

Man held over girl's killing

DETECTIVES HAVE arrested a 20-year-old man in connection with the death of Rebecca Groves, 17, whose body was discovered in Thringstone, Leicestershire, on Saturday.

The suspect was taken to Loughborough police station for an interview. Rebecca, 17, was last seen alive at 11.30pm on Friday when she left the Hare and Hounds Pub in Whitwick, near Loughborough, where she had spent the evening with friends, a police spokesman said. Her family grew anxious when she failed to return home and contacted the police early the next morning after their own searches failed.

Their worst fears were realised when she was found dead on the edge of a wooded area in Thringstone at 6.30am on Saturday morning. Her body was taken to Leicester Royal Infirmary, where a post mortem showed she had been strangled to death. There was also evidence of sexual assault.

BY LINDSAY BARNES

In a statement, the teenager's family appealed to be left alone. "We have not yet even begun to understand what has happened or why. Rebecca was a wonderful young woman with her whole life in front of her," the statement said. "The family needs to be left to grieve and remember her."

Superintendent Graham Thomas appealed for anyone who saw Rebecca on Friday night or anyone who knows someone who returned home late on Friday or early Saturday with muddled clothing or in an agitated state to contact them. "I would appeal for anyone with any information at all about how Rebecca came to meet her death, to contact the incident room at Coalville police station," Supt Thomas said.

Contact Supt Thomas on 0116-222 2222 or Crimestoppers on 0800 555111

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NHS to appoint 600 fraudbusters

THE BIGGEST crackdown on NHS fraud begins today with a campaign to save £150m lost through prescription charge evasion.

Patients claiming free prescriptions will now have to produce evidence of their entitlement in the first stage of a scheme that will eventually see 600 "fraudbusters" appointed throughout the NHS.

The staff for the £4m-a-year scheme will be trained in detection and interview tech-

BY JEREMY LAURANCE
Health Editor

niques and will target GPs, dentists, opticians and pharmacists involved in expensive scams to defraud the NHS.

No one knows how much the NHS is losing as a result of fraud but it is estimated to run into hundreds of millions of pounds. Jim Gee, the NHS's chief fraudbuster appointed last September, said: "The NHS's budget is £44bn a year

and if only 1 per cent of that is going astray that would be £440m. We don't have hard information but it is clear that substantial sums are at stake."

A £1m advertising campaign begins today warning patients and pharmacists that from 1 April those claiming free prescriptions will have to produce evidence of their age or other reason for their entitlement. More than four of five prescriptions are handed out free of the £5.85 prescription charge

but only children, those over retirement age, and those on benefits, plus a few smaller groups, are entitled to receive free prescriptions.

A national Counter Fraud Service is being set up with eight regional teams, two specialist teams targeting prescription and dental fraud, and a mobile team.

By March 2000, every health authority will have its own counter fraud specialist and this will be extended to every

NHS trust by March 2001, totalling 600 staff.

A survey last year found doctors and opticians involved in fraud were targeting nursing homes because residents were often confused and vulnerable and made poor witnesses when a scam was discovered. Typical schemes involved prescribing new spectacles with stronger lenses to residents every few months and making out prescriptions for drugs that are never delivered.

Other examples included a dentist who claimed payment for extraction of milk teeth from a patient aged 190 and another who claimed for filling, then extracting, then filling again and extracting again, the same teeth in the same patient. A popular fraud among opticians was to claim payment for tinted lenses and then provide plain lenses. The survey by the Health Care Financial Management Association, found that the average fraud was

worth £50,000 and health authorities detected £8m worth, which it said was the tip of the iceberg.

Mr Gee made his name tackling fraud at Lambeth council in south London. His investigations resulted in losses being halved, and led to the sacking of 120 employees. He said: "We know most about fraud in the area of prescriptions and our estimate is that £150m a year is being lost. We want to reduce that by half by 2002-3. We aim

to reduce fraud throughout the NHS to an absolute minimum within 10 years."

He said he had been encouraged by the backing he had received for the campaign from medical and pharmaceutical organisations. "The thing that has impressed me most is the enthusiasm of all NHS staff for the work we are undertaking. They are very clear why we are doing it - to free up large sums of money for patient care."

Huge increase in experiments on GM animals

BY CHARLES ARTHUR
Technology Editor

BRITAIN'S LABORATORIES are using 350,000 genetically modified animals every year and the number is rocketing as the use of normal breeds has fallen.

Many of the GM, or transgenic, animals used had human genes added in order to study human diseases. Examples included Polly, a cloned sheep incorporating a human gene which makes a protein used to treat cystic fibrosis (CF), and animals which have been given the human gene that leads to CF.

Other applications have led to hairless mutant mice, which are used to study the effects of carcinogens and other products on the skin. However, there are no plans to develop GM animals for food.

Home Office figures show that in 1997, the last year for which full data is available, there were 353,000 GM animals used in experiments, an increase of 17 per cent over the previous year, and of 65 per cent over 1995.

At the same time, 237,000 animals bred to display a "harmful genetic defect" - such as congenital disabilities causing blindness or stunted growth - were used in experiments.

The proportion is expected to grow over the next few years, although a leading scientist says that it could drop almost to zero within a decade when the pattern of human genes is unraveled.

The pressure group Animal Aid claims that such animals are in effect "bred to suffer" - and that the addition of the genes has frequently proved to be useless, especially in mice, where the human genes do not



GM mice: 'Bred to suffer', say animal rights activists

The group is calling for all such research to be stopped, in favour of test-tube experiments with donated human tissue.

However, Professor Gordon McVie, who heads the Cancer Research Campaign, said that experiments with transgenic animals are useful, and reduce suffering to animals overall.

"We use thousands fewer normal mice by applying transgenic technology," he said. "It means we can study exactly the gene that we want to, and find out exactly what its function is. It also means we don't have to breed so many mice."

"More importantly, it could be that in a few years we will not need to use mice at all. Once the Human Genome Project is complete, in about 2003, we might be able to read off all the genes straight out."

"But until then, I expect a growth in the use of transgenic animals."

The number of experiments on animals peaked in 1969, when more than 5.5 million were carried out in the UK. Since then the number has fallen steadily.

The rise in the use of transgenic animals has alarmed Lord Alton of Liverpool, who has followed the debate.

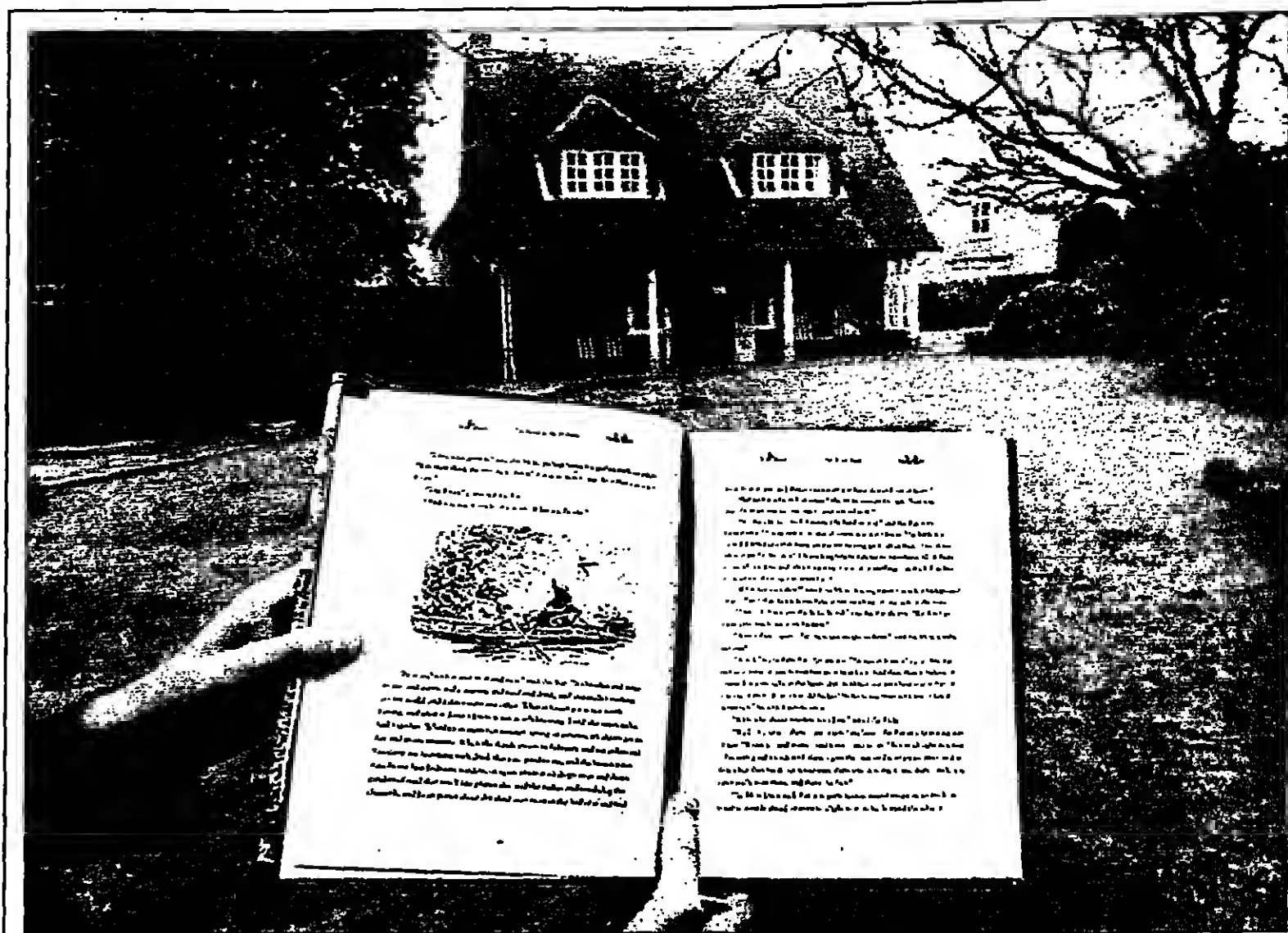
"The number of genetically modified animals used now is phenomenal. In the early Nineties it was a few tens of thousands. But this shows that in the past few years, laboratories in Britain have produced more than 800,000 genetically modified animals," he said.

"The sheer scale of what's taking place is all happening without proper public debate," he added. "It's really outpacing any debate about ethics."

ANIMALS IN THE LAB

	GM animals	Total experiments
1995	215,308	2.75m
1996	303,850	2.72m
1997	353,000	2.64m

Source: Home Office



Church Cottage in Pangbourne, Berkshire, which inspired the sketches in 'The Wind in the Willows'

John Laurence

Ratty's back garden up for sale

GENERATIONS OF children have grown up with the adventures of Ratty, Mole and Badger in *The Wind in the Willows*, but the familiar line drawings of the characters owe their existence to a cottage in Berkshire, which has just gone up for sale.

Church Cottage, in Pangbourne, is where Kenneth Grahame lived for eight years until his death in 1932. It is also where the author envisaged his characters messing about in boats on the nearby river Thames.

Grahame actually wrote *The Wind in the Willows* while

BY KATE WATSON-SMYTH

living downriver at Cookham Dean. But when it was published, in 1908, he was unhappy with the original drawings and came to the conclusion that it was a book that could not be illustrated.

In 1931, the publishers Methuen, asked EH Shepherd, already famous for his depictions of Winnie the Pooh and Piglet, to try and produce something suitable, and he went to Pangbourne to visit the author.

In an account of the visit, Shepherd wrote how Grahame

had imagined his creations' homes near the cottage and said: "I love these little people, be kind to them."

"He told me of the river nearby, of the meadows where Mole broke ground that spring morning, of the banks where Rat had his house, of the pools where Otter hid and of the Wild Wood way up on the hill above the river, a fearsome place but for the sanctuary of Badger's home and Toad Hall."

Shepherd went out with his sketch pad and drew the real places that Grahame had pointed out and added his

own inspiration. The author was enchanted by the subsequent pictures.

Four years after Grahame's death, his widow Elspeth wrote to Arthur Rackham who had been asked to illustrate an early edition of the book but was too busy. Mrs Grahame offered to show him the special areas of the river "that might be connected with Toad, Mole and company", and he too produced a set of illustrations.

Roger White, the owner of Church Cottage - which is expected to sell for £425,000 - said he had recognised the

Wild Wood and the river bank from drawings in his strolls around the village.

"Shepherd never mentioned the exact places which inspired him but you can see them when you walk around," he said.

"When Grahame wrote *The Wind in the Willows* he was drawing on a wide experience of many places but when he moved to Pangbourne he appears to have associated these images of the book with areas around the village.

"And this is the place he chose to return to in the final years of his life."

Skin disease hits Scots dolphins

THE MORAY Firth dolphins, one of only two resident populations in Britain, are suffering from severe skin disease, a worldwide study has found.

Some of the animals have two thirds of the visible parts of their bodies covered in lesions, while in others the normally smooth dark skin has turned orange or is pitted like corroded aluminium.

A scientific survey of 10 other groups of the same species, the bottlenose dolphin, *Tursiops truncatus*, has found that there are some skin irregularities in all of them, but that the Scottish animals, on which a tourist trade in the

BY MICHAEL MCCARTHY
Environment Correspondent

Inverness area is based, are by far the most seriously affected. Nearly all the 130 animals in the colony are suffering.

The research, to be published in the *Proceedings of the Royal Society*, has so far found no link between the skin disease and pollution, but may indicate one with water temperature and salinity.

The Moray Firth dolphins are the most northerly resident group of the species in the world and live in colder and less saline water than any others. "They are a group on the edge,"

said Paul Thompson, a senior lecturer in zoology at Aberdeen University, who leads the study of them with a colleague from the University of St Andrews, Ben Wilson.

The researchers have so far been unable to detect the agent causing the skin disease - whether it is a virus, bacterium or fungus - or whether it is affecting the dolphins' behaviour. As wild dolphins are so difficult to study, they cannot even detect whether it is causing them discomfort. But it is certainly ugly in appearance. "Some of them do look pretty grotesque," Mr Thompson said.

The disease came to light when the Scottish researchers began photographing and studying the dorsal fins of individual dolphins in order to recognise them. They then organised the worldwide survey to see if it was prevalent elsewhere.

Bottlenose colonies were studied in Portugal, Ireland, Brittany, Croatia, the United States and New Zealand, as well as Britain's other resident colony in Cardigan Bay in Wales, and a smaller number of animals off the Cornish coast. All were found to have some skin disease.

The Cardigan Bay animals

were also quite badly affected, but the dolphins of the Moray Firth were by far the worst hit.

"It is a cause for concern, as this is a very small colony, and it highlights their vulnerability," Mr Thompson said.

The Moray Firth animals have already been observed exhibiting unusual behaviour as well as unusual skin conditions - they are known to attack and kill porpoises, apparently from sheer aggression, and last year it was revealed that they have even attacked their own young. But no connection can so far be drawn between the two phenomena, Mr Thompson said.



A Moray Firth dolphin with skin disease

Ben Wilson/University of Aberdeen

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Hague: make divorce tougher

WILLIAM HAGUE will attempt to put traditional "family values" back at the heart of Tory policy tonight with a call for divorce to be made more difficult.

In a move that will delight his party's right wing, the Conservative leader will claim that the Major government was wrong to change the law to allow more marriages to break up.

Mr Hague will state that there should be a longer "cooling off period" to force couples who want to split up to reconsider their decision.

His comments follow his speech to the Conservative Spring Forum this weekend in which he called for an "explicit and special" recognition of marriage within the tax system.

To mark the final day of consultation on the Government's "Supporting Families" Green Paper, the 37-year-old MP who has been married to his wife Fiona for just over a year, will tell BBC Radio Five Live that divorce at present is "too easy".

"I was one of the cabinet ministers in the last government who actually voted against my own government's legislation because I thought that it was going to make divorce too easy," he says.

"I voted for a longer period that people would have to wait before they got divorced, so I'm on that side of the debate. I would rather see divorce difficult rather than easy. I've often thought that it is too easy to divorce."

Mr Hague will add that while he accepts that there are some marriages where breakdown is the best outcome, "I'm not wholly convinced we have got the balance right."

His tough new stance on divorce echoes his speech at the weekend, in which he deplored the fact that a "left-wing, liberal consensus" had emerged

BY PAUL WAUGH
Political Correspondent

which said that marriage did not matter.

The Tory leader went on to attack the Government's decision to scrap Married Couples' Allowance from the tax system and hinted that he would reintroduce similar measures if elected.

Mr Hague's criticism of the Major and Thatcher administrations prompted anger among some backbenchers, including Mr Major himself.

In his spring conference speech, Mr Hague said he wanted to "break free" from the past and included a point-by-point rebuttal of Tory errors such as excessive centralism, disregard for the public sector and betrayal on tax.

However, Mr Major privately told former cabinet colleagues that he was furious with his successor for going too far in attacking his record in power.

Former Tory minister Alan Clark, MP for Kensington and Chelsea, warned Mr Hague against criticising previous Tory leaders.

"I don't at all feel comfortable with the way he's attacking his immediate predecessors," he told GMTV's Sunday Programme.

"He may disclaim this but in fact the criticisms are levelled at both Mrs Thatcher and John Major and I don't think, in party terms, that is conducive to unity and it's certainly not conducive to self-respect."

Michael Ancram, the Tory chairman, insisted that Mr Hague had "made it absolutely clear that he was not knocking past leaders". However, the Tories had to "face up to things" and admit there were "certain things in the past which we did get wrong".



Prunella Scales - Sybil in the TV sitcom 'Fawlty Towers' - is concerned at the disappearance of 'posh' accents

Lost voice of gentry sought

THE ACTRESS Prunella Scales, who played television's Sybil Fawcett, is spearheading a national project to remind Britons how to talk "posh".

Years of worshipping working-class and regional accents have, it seems, had one unforeseen consequence. Actors do not know where to learn the cadences of the upper classes.

Faced with a play by Noel Coward they are likely to struggle for the right accent. Few have had to play "posh" at a higher level in their careers than Prunella Scales; she was the first actress to play the Queen on stage.

"More and more over the last few years I've noticed what I can only describe as an inverted snobbery in actors, in terms of speech," she says.

"Young actors especially will, quite rightly, take endless trouble to perfect a regional or urban working-class accent or dialect, with admirable success, but when they appear in say, a play by Wilde or Shaw

BY DAVID LISTER
Arts News Editor

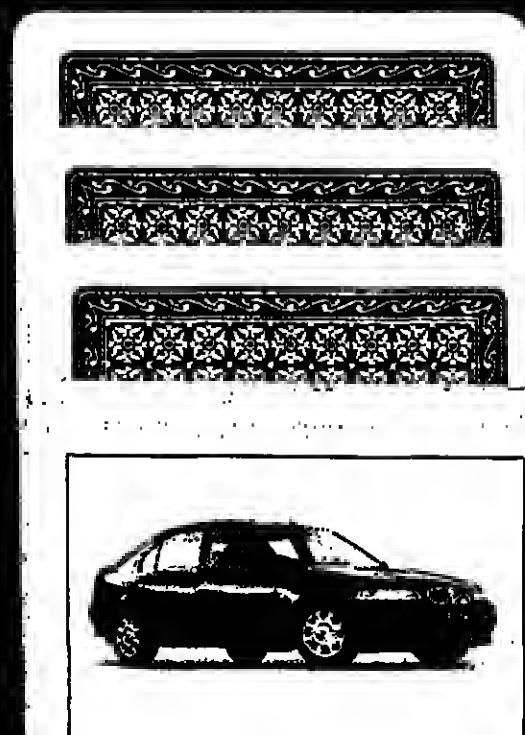
or Coward, they don't seem to ask themselves, 'How did this particular person speak, given the life they led, the people they met and the period they lived in?'

Scales contacted Crispin Jewitt, director of the National Sound Archive at the British Library, asking to hear recordings of past aristocrats, politicians, clergy, landowners, members of the Royal Family, debutantes, society hostesses, masters of foxhounds and actors of bygone years.

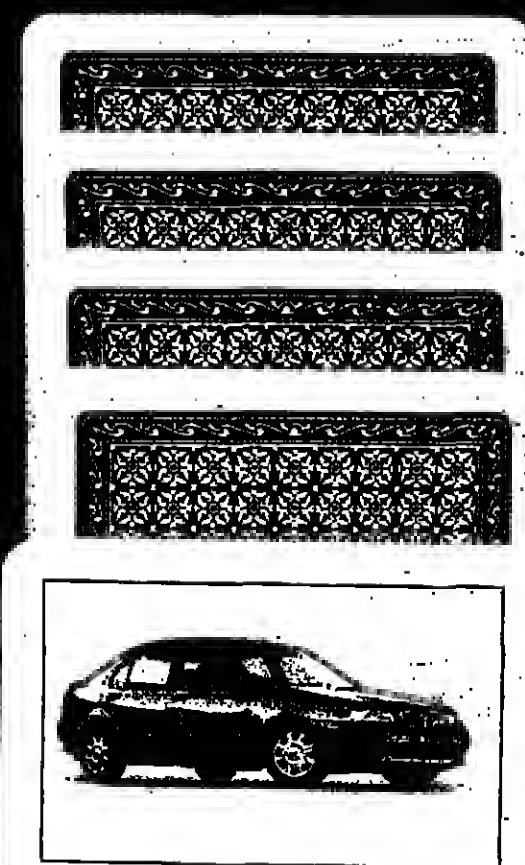
She says she is "delighted and moved to discover there is an interest at the National Sound Archive in compiling what I call a library of 'posh' speech."

"It is very difficult nowadays to find records of people from 'grand' backgrounds, or any such people who are prepared to impart their speech habits or offer advice."

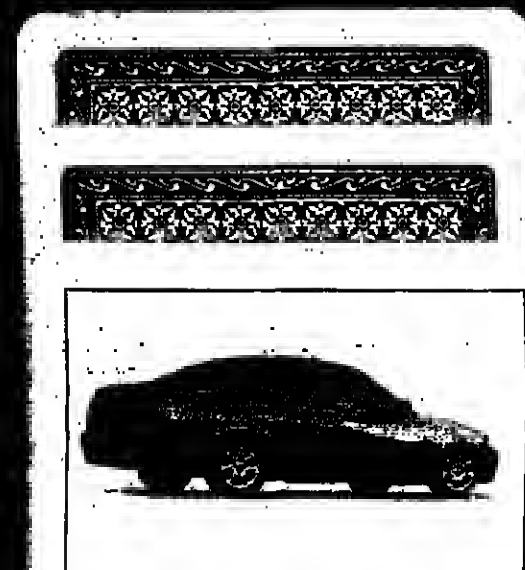
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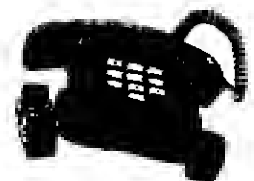


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IN THE MONDAY REVIEW PAGE 4

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Sleaze inquiry puts pressure on Cresson

EDITH CRESSON held discussions with the team investigating the sleaze allegations against her yesterday, one day before their report on European Union fraud is expected.

The meeting came as Socialist MEPs stepped up the pressure on Ms Cresson, threatening again to sack the entire European Commission if individuals criticised by the inquiry stay put.

Amid mounting tension in Brussels, Ms Cresson was one of eight top European officials given the opportunity to see the findings of the committee of "wise persons", whose report will be delivered at 5pm today. The former French prime minister shows no sign of quitting her post as Commissioner for Education and Research, raising the prospect of a re-run of January's heated dispute between European Parliament and the Commission.

A spokesman for Ms Cresson said she was happy to study the report's findings, but would not comment until tonight.

The final draft of the report was being concluded last night before being handed to the presidents of the European Commission and Parliament today. The Commission will hold an emergency meeting on the findings at 9pm.

Pauline Green, leader of the European Parliament's largest group, the Socialists, said: "If the report shows wrongdoing by any individual then whoever they are, they must be rooted out." Ms Green warned that if the Commission President Jacques Santer "dithers or delays, it will be his own head that is on the block".

By STEPHEN CASTLE
in Brussels

Her comments were ominous, as the Socialists helped avert a mass sacking of the Commission in January.

Alan Donnelly, leader of the 60 Labour MEPs, said: "The president of the Commission must act immediately on the recommendations of the report to ensure his personal credibility and the continued presidency."



Jacques Santer: Under pressure to act forcefully

Ms Cresson's fate depends on the tone of the report and whether it specifically identifies Commissioners as culprits, or simply makes general criticisms.

As the fraud saga reaches its final chapter, Ms Cresson and Mr Santer are locked in a bitter dispute. Ms Cresson believes that Mr Santer is conspiring to sacrifice her.

When the fraud allegations broke in January, Mr Santer said stuck to the collective line of defence, arguing that he would rather resign than see

individual Commissioners censured. To Ms Cresson's anger, that line has changed. Mr Santer said last month that he would consider asking any Commissioner judged guilty of misdeeds to step down.

On Friday Mr Santer added: "The committee has worked in a professional and objective manner. The Commission will respond to its recommendations as they concern the general operations of the Commission or the conduct of individual members."

In fact, Mr Santer does not have the power to sack individual Commissioners. With the support of the Commission he can only refer their cases to the European Court of Justice. This is the only body that can sack a Commissioner. That could be the start of a complex judicial process.

Ms Cresson's tough line contrasts with a softer tone from Manuel Marin, a vice-president of the European Commission and another target of the MEPs. He may be ready to resign if criticised by the report of "wise persons".

The inquiry was triggered by allegations that as many as eight of the 20 Commissioners presided over fraud or serious irregularities in their departments, or handed contracts to friends or relatives.

Investigations into the "Leonardo da Vinci" youth programme, for which Ms Cresson is responsible, revealed a catalogue of mismanagement, dubious practice and suspected fraud. Ms Cresson is accused of nepotism after appointing a friend, Rene Berthelot, to the post of scientific visitor.



Edith Cresson, one of eight European Commissioners who have been investigated following allegations of fraud and serious irregularities in their departments. The findings will be revealed today
Christian Lutz/AP

Oskar breaks silence to slam leader

By IMRE KARACS
in Berlin

OSKAR LAFONTAINE had promised a dignified silence over his dramatic resignation, and it lasted three days. While still not answering calls from the German chancellery, the former finance minister told the world yesterday he had quit because of the government's "poor teamwork".

"The mistakes we made were made by all of us," he told television crews staking out his house in Saarbrücken. "The reason for my resignation is the poor teamwork we provided in the last few months. Without good teamwork you can't work together successfully."

There was no hiding his bitterness towards Chancellor Gerhard Schröder, who had contrived to leak his criticism of the minister to the press. "Teamwork requires that you watch out for each other and you stick together, especially in public," Mr Lafontaine added. "When the team doesn't play well together, the team has to be rebuilt."

He spoke for 10 minutes, taking no questions. He said he had been contemplating retirement from politics since 1990, when a deranged woman stabbed him in the neck at a rally. "Ever since the assassination attempt I have been asking myself how much further I want to continue."

Mr Lafontaine parted emotionally, taking a side-swipe at the government's suspect loyalties while passionately reaffirming his own. "There's something you should never forget," he said. "The heart isn't traded on the stock market yet, but it has a home. And it beats to the left."

The left heard him. After an emergency meeting yesterday the Social Democrats' youth wing demanded the resignation of Bodo Hombach, the Chancellor's fixer and the right's chief ideologue. That provoked recriminations from the other camp. Werner Müller, Economics Minister, said also close to Mr Schröder, rebuffed the "poor teamwork" charge and came close to accusing Mr Lafontaine of incompetence.

"A team is only as good as the sum total of individual players," Mr Müller said. He would comment on Mr Lafontaine's abilities only so far as to say that "you can work well with a finance minister, provided he is well-prepared for his job".

German Blair
Review, page 5

Watchdog claims EU fraud costs billions

BILLIONS OF pounds are being lost each year through European Union waste and fraud, the Government's spending watchdog has warned.

As MEPs prepared to receive a damning internal report on the mismanagement of EU funds today, the Comptroller and Auditor-General, Sir John Bourn, produced his own document, cataloguing a series of scams and bungles. Many of the new revelations concerned the Common Agricultural Policy, on which Britain has been lobbying for reform. Conservative MEPs have

By FRAN ABRAMS
Westminster Correspondent

written to Tony Blair demanding more action against "a culture of cronyism, nepotism, fraud and mismanagement" in the European Commission.

Sir John found that after four consecutive years in which the EU's auditors found major weaknesses in the management of its budget, there had been "little evidence of improvement". His report detailed specific instances of waste and fraud adding up to more than £5bn. Among them were:

- A scheme to cut the number of fishing boats in the EU which removed 290 vessels from the fleet at a cost of £200m - almost £700,000 per boat. It later emerged that some were already out of service and others had been sunk in accidents. The EU auditors concluded the scheme had "practically no effect" on fishing activity.
- A scam in which two ships sailed from France, one full of olive oil and the other full of sunflower oil. Both docked in Italy and the olive oil was unloaded. Officials were told the oil for the Italian market was sunflower

- oil, which attracted lower duties. A total of £4.6m was lost in import tax and EU aid to which the firms were not entitled.
- Durum wheat farmers were overcompensated for low yields to such an extent that £2bn was lost between 1994 and 1997. As well as receiving a fixed minimum price, which made up for the yield, the farmers also received special aid for every ton harvested.
- Sixty five thousand cattle, slaughtered under a scheme designed to stop BSE could not be traced, even though farmers had apparently been compensated.

- Some cattle carcasses could remain in storage for five years because of a shortage of incineration facilities.
- New Zealand butter imported into the EU which fell outside strict fat content criteria required to qualify for a low rate of import duty. UK Customs and Excise officials failed to check it properly and as a result taxes worth some £270m went unpaid.
- Cigarettes loaded into speedboats in Yugoslavia bound for Italy which were unloaded on the Adriatic Coast as contraband instead of going through customs. They went on to the

- EU black market and £410m in tax was lost.
- Evidence of "suspected major fraud and irregularity" in the EU aid budget. One-third of the budget for southern Mediterranean countries and almost one-fifth of that for Central and Eastern Europe was never paid out.

Funds programmes. In their letter to Tony Blair, the Conservative MEPs accused the Prime Minister of backing "business as usual" in the EU, despite major financial irregularities. Roy Perry, the Tory budgetary control spokesman, said that if today's internal report named individual commissioners then action must be taken against them. "Since December, Blair's boys in Brussels have refused to support Conservative moves to clean up Euro-fraud. Throughout this sorry saga, Blair's silence has been stunning," he said.

Heseltine and Clarke cleared to join pro-euro campaign

By PAUL WAUGH AND
SARAH SCHAEFER

MICHAEL HESELTINE and Kenneth Clarke are to join Britain's biggest ever pro-single currency campaign after William Hague gave his tacit permission for the move yesterday.

The two former cabinet ministers will throw their full weight behind the "Britain in Europe" group once elections for the European Parliament have been completed this summer.

The new organisation, which holds its first meeting in the City of London today, aims to persuade the public to vote "yes" in any forthcoming referendum on the euro.

The cross-party campaign will bring together MPs, businessmen and trade unionists to launch a nationwide publicity drive to counter the plethora of Euro-sceptic groups that have sprung up.

Initially, more than 100,000 leaflets will be delivered in 125 towns and cities across the UK, followed by a £2m-a-year media blitz including newspaper advertisements and billboard posters.

Lord Marshall, the former CBI president and current British Airways chairman, formally launched the group yesterday when he confirmed the membership of its executive board.

Lord Hollick, the Labour peer and chief executive of United News and Media, will



join Menzies Campbell, the Liberal Democrats' foreign affairs spokesman, and Ken Jackson, general secretary of the AEEU, on the board.

Lord Howe of Aberavon, the former Tory chancellor, is also on the board in the capacity of an "observer" and is so far the most senior Conservative involved in the campaign.

However *The Independent* understands that Mr Clarke and Mr Heseltine will sign up after June's European elec-



Heseltine and Clarke are likely to join the pro-euro group after the June elections

tions and join Britain in Europe's full council. Both men have decided to steer clear of explicit backing for the group before June in order to reduce Tory divisions ahead of the elections to the European Parliament, but are certain to join after then.

Their involvement became even more likely yesterday after Mr Hague softened significantly his line on dissent from pro-European colleagues, stating that he wanted his party

to remain a broad church. "It doesn't stop people being a Conservative just because they disagree on one policy. People are allowed to be Conservative without agreeing to 100 per cent of the policies," he told BBC's *On the Record* programme.

"I do not want to see MPs driven out of the Conservative Party or excluded from the Conservative Party. Those people are Conservatives."

Britain in Europe will be the main challenger to the

Democracy Movement - a Euro-sceptic campaign funded by the Yorkshire businessman Paul Sykes.

In an attempt to outmanoeuvre the better funded "no" campaign, the pro-Europeans are to place features in women's magazines to list the benefits of the euro, explaining how a single currency would make everyday life more efficient. "Women are the driving forces in many families because they are often still responsible for the household and shopping," said a source close to the campaign.

"They have enormous influence over their families and if we can convince them, we are nearly there. Their euro-scepticism is often a gut feeling and we have to present them with facts."

Lord Marshall, a cross-bench peer, said yesterday: "We believe the euro will secure the best future for a modern Britain in a modern Europe: prosperous at home, strong in the European Union, proud in the world. This campaign aims to inform the British people about the single currency and convince them of the advantages to Britain of joining."

Other members of the Britain in Europe board announced yesterday are Colin Sharman, chief executive of KPMG International, Niall Fitzgerald, chairman of Unilever, and Judith Mayhew, chairman of the policy and resources committee of the Corporation of London.

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Taliban pact signals end to civil war

TWENTY YEARS of civil war in Afghanistan appeared to be nearing an end yesterday, after the country's warring factions agreed to share the government and work towards a permanent ceasefire.

Representatives of the Taliban militia and the opposition Northern Alliance said they had agreed to form a joint executive, legislature and judiciary and to release 20 prisoners each as a gesture of goodwill. The announcement was made in Ashkhabad, the capital of the former Soviet republic of Turkmenistan.

Mohammad Yunus Qanouni, who led the opposition delegation, said he was optimistic that the next round of talks - to be held in Afghanistan itself - would result in a permanent end to hostilities.

The leader of the Taliban delegation, Mullah Wakil Ahmed Muttawakil, said that a lasting ceasefire would automatically follow the establishment of a shared power structure. "When we agree on the details and personnel of the government then we can agree to have a ceasefire," he said.

The agreement came as a surprise. Only last month the two sides were refusing even to talk to each other. Lengthy "talks about talks" broke up acrimoniously last year and were followed by some of the fiercest battles seen in Afghanistan for many years.

"It is very strange and very sudden," an aid worker said yesterday in Islamabad, the Pakistani capital.

"It seems to go against everything the Taliban has stood for since they started."

BY JASON BURKE
in Islamabad

The Taliban have conquered nearly 90 per cent of Afghanistan in a five-year campaign and until now they had always seemed determined to impose their strict version of Islamic law on the entire country. Senior Taliban officials - largely drawn from the majority Sunni Muslim Pathan tribes - have repeatedly denounced the opposition, who are drawn from the country's religious and ethnic minorities, as "brigands and criminals".

Throughout the winter there has been fierce fighting as troops from the Northern Alliance, led by Ahmed Shah Massoud, the former defence minister and a hero of the war against the Soviet Union, have tried to win back ground lost to Taliban offensives last year.

The distrust between the two sides may yet sink the latest hopes for peace. In the five years since the Taliban began their campaigns, both sides have committed horrific human rights abuses.

Two years ago it was discovered that commanders from the Northern Alliance had executed thousands of Taliban prisoners by throwing them down wells. Last year the Taliban massacred as many as 5,000 Shia Muslims when they captured the key northern city of Mazar-e Sharif.

Much of Afghanistan has been devastated by 20 years of fighting. Mines cover the country's scarce agricultural land. The fighting has severely disrupted food distribution, causing severe local famines.



Afghan Northern Alliance soldiers at an observation post on the Tagab front line, 46 miles north of Kabul

AFGHANISTAN'S 20 YEARS OF BLOODSHED

1979: Moscow, scared by rising fundamentalism, invades Afghanistan to support its puppet regime. 1989: After suffering 30,000 casualties, the Russians withdraw. No one knows how many Afghans died but the total could be

close to half a million. 1992: Kabul falls to the Muslim Mujahedin, defeating the regime supported by Moscow. 1992-95: Within days, various factions are fighting each other. Over the next three years much of Kabul

is destroyed. Anarchy reigns as commanders set themselves up as warlords. 1994: The Taliban, a new movement devoted to establishing an Islamic state, sweep through the country. 1995: Aided by friends in

Pakistan and Saudi Arabia - the Taliban flag is hoisted over Kabul. 1998: The Taliban capture the key city of Mazar-e Sharif. The opposition falls apart leaving the Taliban in control of almost 90 per cent of the country.

Blaze in Delhi slum kills 26

BY MARCUS TANNER

AT LEAST 26 people were killed, thousands were left homeless and many were trapped in the flames yesterday after fire raged through a slum district of Delhi.

A fire brigade spokesman said 35 fire engines were battling the fire, which was now under control.

"We can confirm 18 deaths, but the unofficial toll is higher," the spokesman said. "A long cluster along the river was affected. It could be around one kilometre or more."

The blaze affected more than 1,000 huts in the Vijay Ghat area, near the Yamuna river. The fire brigade found it difficult to move vehicles through the district's narrow lanes.

Indian news reports said 26 people died in the slum quarter, where there are about 50,000 huts. They quoted police as saying most of the bodies were found in a mosque.

Witnesses at a hospital said they counted 17 bodies. They also said people threw stones and damaged fire engines because they arrived long after the fire started in the slum, which is populated by rag-pickers and poor people who trade in junk and old newspapers.

"They came more than two hours after the fire started. Many huts could have been saved," one resident said.

The cause of the fire was not known, but some witnesses said they heard a loud cylinder blast which might have started it. Left-wing politicians in the city blamed sabotage by right-wing opponents.

The blaze broke out shortly before the start of a public meeting against a campaign to evict the slum-dwellers because they were illegal immigrants from Bangladesh.

The Communist politicians Hannan Mollah and Nilotpal Basu said: "We have strong reasons to believe that the fire might not be accidental as the spirit of the people galvanised by the meeting could have been a provocation for the vested interests, who would like to have these poor people out of the area."

Iraq executes eight for assassination of Shia clerics

IRAQ SAYS it has executed eight people charged with murdering leading clerics of the Shia Muslim faith, to which most Iraqis belong.

Gunmen have assassinated many prominent Shia leaders during the last five years in or around the holy city of An Najaf on the Euphrates where many of them lived.

Iraqi exiles say they were the victims of government death squads and the executions are

BY PATRICK COCKBURN

an attempt to divert attention from the government's responsibility for the killings.

In a statement carried by all the Iraqi newspapers yesterday the General Directorate of Security said the men "were executed on 13 March ... after they were found guilty by the Iraqi authorities and were sentenced to capital punishment."

The executions follow the

killings in an ambush of Ayatollah Mohammed Sadeq al-Sadr in Najaf last month.

His death triggered rioting in Shia towns in Iraq, which were bloodily quelled by the security forces. Iraqi troops are reported to have sealed off Najaf in the last few days.

The executed men confessed to killing two other leading ayatollahs last year: Mutarra Rujerli and Ali al-Gharawi. Both were shot in separate attacks.

They are also alleged to have admitted to trying to kill Ayatollah Ali al-Sistani, another leading Shia cleric, in 1996. He was not hit but one other person died in the shooting. The men were not charged with the murder of Ayatollah al-Sadr.

The endemic use of torture in Iraqi prisons means confessions are easily extracted.

The Shia holy cities of An Najaf, Al Kufah and Karbala in the mid-Euphrates region are

heavily policed by the security services. It is unlikely that any gang of assassins could operate there except on government orders.

Although more than a hundred Shia clergy disappeared during a Shia uprising of 1991, the present assassination campaign against the clerics only started in 1993.

It is probably motivated by Saddam Hussein's belief that the popularity of the Shia clergy

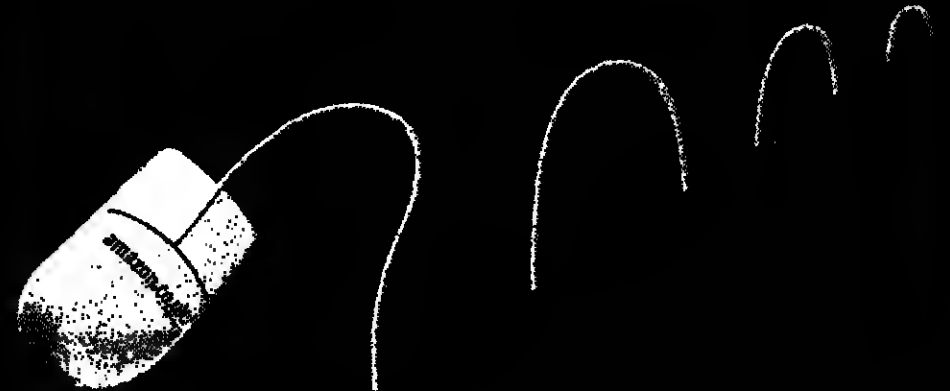
posed a threat to his regime. Religious leaders loyal to Ayatollah al-Sadr have been arrested over the last month and religious organisations he established dismantled.

There are reports of scattered guerrilla action in Shia areas of southern Iraq carried out by the Supreme Council for the Islamic Revolution in Iraq, which is based in Iran. This may indicate that Iran is more willing to let guerrillas cross its border

der but they are unlikely to make headway against the government's overwhelming military superiority.

President Saddam's determination to dispose of all possible resistance leaders may have been strengthened by the growing confrontation with the US and Britain. Diplomats in Baghdad say that the low-level air war by the allies against Iraqi air defences may be causing less damage than claimed.

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Hapless Gore seeks degree of credibility

VICE-PRESIDENT Al Gore takes a day-long swing through the key election states of New Hampshire and Iowa today, in an effort to narrow the gap that has already opened up between himself and leading Republican candidates.

Although Mr Gore has only one declared rival for the Democratic nomination in next year's presidential race, Bill Bradley, the impetus that has already built up behind two of the 10 Republican contenders, especially George W Bush of Texas, is worrying state Democratic Party organisations.

Polls show Mr Bush leading Mr Gore by almost two to one and forecast that if an election were held now not only Mr Bush, but the second favoured Republican candidate, Elizabeth Dole, could beat him.

These are, of course, early days, and Mr Gore's potential to raise campaign funds is vast. Unless his position looks hope-

By MARY DEJEVSKY
in Washington

less, he will have behind him the full weight of the Democratic Party machine. So long as Bill Clinton's popularity is sustained, he will also have the campaigning might of the President on his side - and Mr Clinton wants his loyal lieutenant to get the best possible start.

But Al Gore has a tendency to make gaffes. And while he has been working hard to remedy two of his long-standing defects - his difficulties in "connecting" with the voters and his "woodenness" in public, the bad luck that he makes himself may prove harder to overcome.

Last week Mr Gore presented two populist policy initiatives from the White House, flanked by the top experts in the field. He talked about measures to reduce traffic congestion. He introduced proposals for simpler and clearer

labelling on medicines (a pre-occupation of the growing constituency of pensioners). He also had an extended interview on the cable network, CNN.

Then he blew it all by claiming to have been the impetus behind the Internet. Mr Gore might have been justified in claiming to have supported, even promoted, the Internet from the time he was a Senator. But to have been the impetus behind it, or invented it? The response was ridicule.

The Republican Majority leader in the Senate, Trent Lott, sent out a spoof circular claiming to have invented the paper clip which, he said, had proved a force for "unity". Dick Armey, the Majority leader in the House, said that he could claim to have invented the national motorway system.

Al Gore's Internet gaffe will go down in the annals next to the occasion when, the day after a nationally-watched bas-

ketball game, he spoke of Michael Jackson, when he meant the basketball player, Michael Jordan. It fed the comedy talk shows for nights on end.

Mr Gore's position as vice-president, his capacity to raise funds and his political lineage, mean that his nomination is virtually assured. But gaffes like these raise doubts at the grassroots level not just about his political skill, but about whether, if nominated, he can win.

■ The US National Security Adviser, Sandy Berger, defended his handling of the China spy allegations yesterday, insisting he had acted swiftly to address the likelihood that secrets had been stolen from the Los Alamos National Laboratory in the Eighties. Mr Berger said spending on counter-intelligence at the lab had been increased many times over between 1995 and now, but said responsibility for investigating security breaches rested with the FBI and the CIA.



Vice-President Al Gore: his latest gaffe is to claim to have been the impetus behind the Internet

AP

Californians split on three strikes law

BARBARA BROOKS is the sort of person who should approve of tough sentencing for criminals. She is a Christian from the Republican right who lives in California's Orange County, one of the most conservative areas in the country.

But a month ago her son was sentenced to 25 years in prison under California's "three-strikes" law, which hands down severe penalties for repeat offenders. Mrs Brooks's son, whose run-ins with the law have been due to drug addiction, will spend the next quarter-century behind bars because he ran away from a group of police officers while under the influence of amphetamines.

Five years after the passage of the three-strikes law, a growing chorus of ordinary citizens is questioning the justice and effectiveness of such tough sentencing.

Repeat-offender laws exist in roughly half of the nation's 50 states - but California introduced one of the first, and one of the toughest, after the 1992 Los Angeles riots and a crime wave largely linked to the post-Cold War economic recession.

In California the third offence, which triggers a minimum 25-year sentence without parole, can be as minor as stealing a slice of pizza. In one notorious case, the offender had shoplifted a bottle of vitamins.

Last week, Mrs Brooks was one of a crowd of protesters who marched in Orange County and elsewhere to demand a softening of "three strikes" to mark the law's fifth anniversary. A report published by a criminal justice think-tank in San Francisco also claimed there was no link between the law and a drop in violent crime.

The report said counties where "three strikes" is rigor-

ously enforced - Los Angeles, Orange and San Diego in the bottom third of the state - have seen a slower drop in crime than counties where "three strikes" is applied occasionally or not at all.

The data contradicts the claims by the state's political leaders. Pete Wilson, California's Republican governor until the beginning of this year, and his Attorney General both said three strikes was crucial to the drop in violent crime.

Mr Wilson's successor, the Democrat Gray Davis, also backs three strikes - a position dictated by the tough-on-crime sensibilities of the Californian electorate.

State officials point out that the murder rate has fallen by 51 per cent over the past five years, and that fewer parolees who have committed violent crimes are coming into California. This suggests the three-strikes law deters career criminals.

Several studies, however, have shown that of the roughly 40,000 prisoners sentenced under three strikes, a disturbingly high proportion have a history of drug abuse, not violence.

James P Gray, an Orange County Superior Court judge, who joined this week's protests, said: "Every time a Congressman's child gets caught with drugs, they want treatment for him. Every time someone else's child gets caught, they want prison for them."

Some state legislators, both Democrats and Republicans, are keen at least to modify the law - to make sure the third offence is a really serious one before handing down irrevocable long sentences.

IMRE KARACS

To be or not to be Blairite - that is the question in Germany

IN THE MONDAY REVIEW PAGE 5

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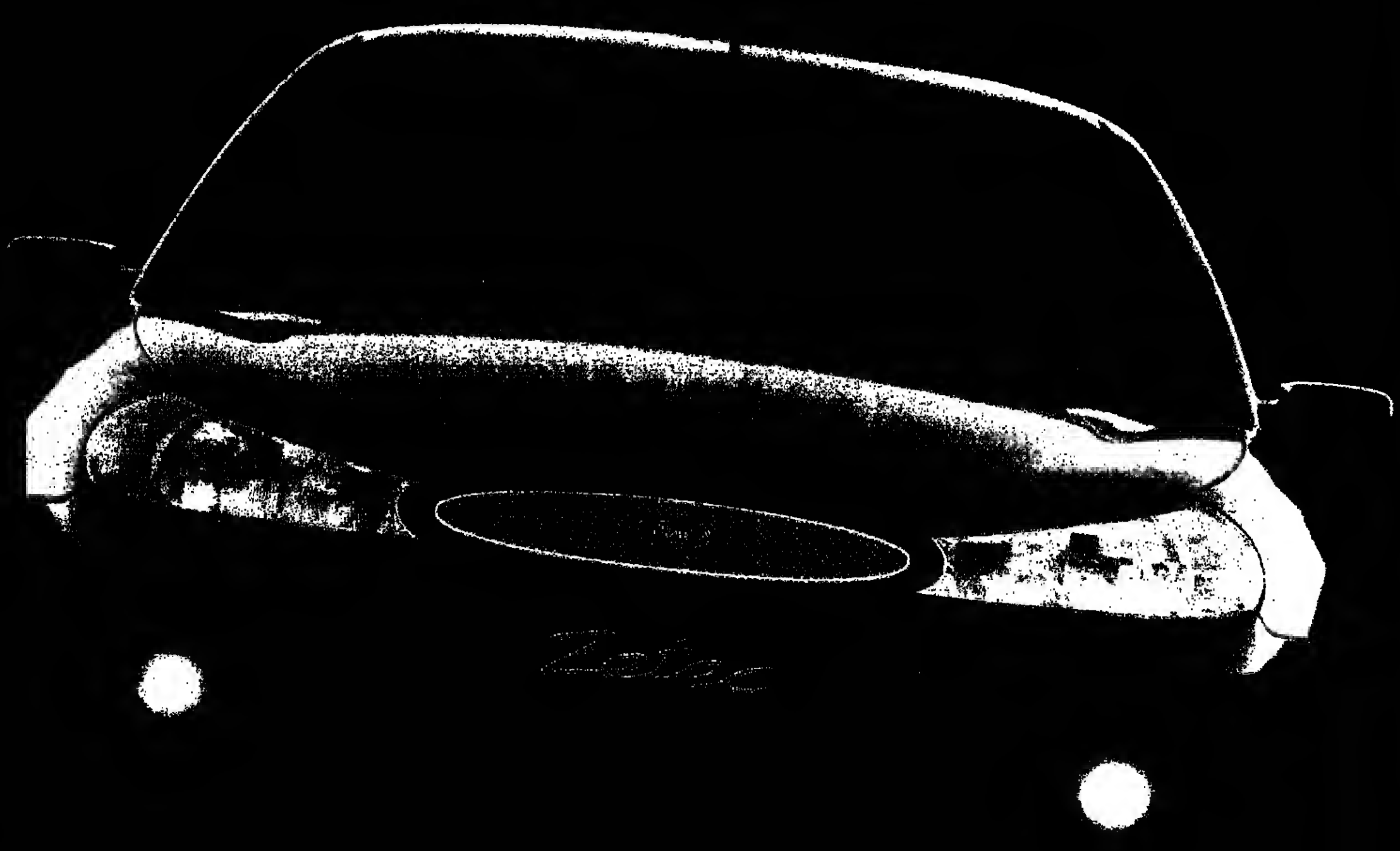
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Martyred by a nation, missed by just one man

ISRAEL CALLED it an "error", and the world forgot. In the days that followed the killing of Mohamed Othman's wife and six of his children, no television crews trooped up the mountainside of eastern Lebanon to interview the grief-stricken shepherd.

But after the Israeli jets bombed his tent and destroyed his family at Janta just before Christmas, the Hizbollah fired a few rockets back at Israel and Israel warned of retaliation against Lebanon and Syria if such "terrorism" continued. That's what the television boys were keen to report. Heightened tension in the Middle East.

So much, then, for 40-year-old Nadwa Othman and her six children: one-year old Sobhi,

FRONT LINE RAIT, EASTERN LEBANON

four-year-old Ali, nine-year-old Aida, 11-year-old Soad, Amin, 16 and Amini, 17. Israeli spokesman David Bar-Ilan said it was a "mistake" when the Israeli jets fired two air-to-ground missiles into their home. Just as Israel apologised for the "mistake" of bombing a house in the Lebanese town of Nabatieh five years ago (killing 13) and for the "tragic error" of the Qana massacre two years later when Israeli artillerymen slaughtered 106 Lebanese refugees.

When I approach the ramshackle tent to which Mohamed Othman has moved with his surviving 14-year-old son Ala'e on the hillsides above the frosty

little village of Rait, he shakes his head in near-disbelief. No one from the outside world had bothered to talk to him about his loss.

His new home is the same as his old home: two dozen canvas sacks sewn together, laid over wooden sticks, an old red rug providing a dark inner sanctum over which the wind howls. He is wearing a brown robe and a red-and-white keffiyeh head-dress and he kneels on the floor to tell his story.

"Ala'e was in the fields near our home with our sheep and I had gone to get the three eldest from school in Janta. I had bought some food to break our



Mohamed Othman with the portraits painted by villagers of his wife and children who died in an Israeli missile attack

Robert Fisk

fast for our Iftar meal - it was Ramadan then - and I stopped to talk to a friend on the road. I told my eldest son Amini to take the other children home. After about a quarter of an hour, I heard aircraft.

"I ran towards my home to be there so that my wife and children wouldn't be frightened. I must have been a kilometre away and I saw the planes right above the tent and two missiles leave one of the

planes. Out of sight, I ran off the road and threw myself on the ground. The impact of the missiles was so enormous that the ground shook and I was hurled into the air and down again and lost consciousness.

"I woke in a hospital bed to find some Lebanese asking me how many children I had. Then I knew they had died."

Ala'e survived, though Mohamed's 200 sheep were killed by the blast of the Israeli missiles. It was Ala'e who reached the two scorched craters on the hillside. "They were all killed at once," Mohamed Othman says. "He found the bodies of his mother and brothers and sisters all on fire. There wasn't much left of them."

Mohamed Othman accompanied their few remains back to his native village of Tufail close to the Syrian border where he had grown up with Nadwa and made an arranged marriage with the woman when she was 20. "I haven't put any stones over their graves yet but when I do, I shall write the word 'martyr' on each one," Mr Othman says. "What else can I write?"

Draped along the wall of his tent is a sheet upon which villagers have painted two Israeli planes dropping a bomb on a shack. In the sky above, the faces of his wife and six children appear, with crude angels' wings painted on each side of them. Mohamed Othman is obviously proud of the picture.

So what did the Israelis think they were bombing on 22 December 1998?

A mile away, down a narrow ravine on the other side of Janta, there is a Hizbollah training camp. It had been bombed before, many times. So had the T-junction outside the camp. A smashed armoured personnel carrier still lies in

broken trees beside it. But the impact craters of the missiles that killed Mohamed Othman's family - and the few scraps of cloth from his tent home - are almost a mile away, on a narrow lane beside an unfinished building. This was an "error" on a massive scale for a jet fighter with computerised targeting systems.

It didn't matter. Typical of the international coverage of this dreadful deed was that of Canadian television which began its report with pictures of the Hizbollah's exploded rockets in northern Israel, an account of injured Israelis (they suffered shock and cuts - there were no deaths) and a sound-bite from the Israeli prime minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, vowing revenge for a "terrorist" action. Only then - and briefly - did the CBC news show a clip of the Othman family's funeral with just a mention of what provoked the Hizbollah rocket fire. The report ended with more threats by Israel to retaliate for "terrorism".

I asked Mohamed Othman what he thought of all this. He sat for a long time on the red rug of his tent and looked towards the light coming through a crack in the old sacks. "Each person must be accountable to his conscience," the shepherd said.

"I still go to the graves every day when I am in my village and I talk to my wife and children. I say to them 'God have mercy on you - and may you live in heaven.'"

ROBERT FISK

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Angola rebels close to seizing key town

BY ANDREW SELSLEY

REBEL FORCES were said to be closing on a strategic town in Angola yesterday, endangering food shipments to tens of thousands of refugees. With reports that Unita rebels were as close as 25 miles from Kuito, government authorities have told aid workers to leave the central Angolan town.

The focus on Kuito, the capital of Bie province, comes as the United Nations prepared to abandon its peacekeeping mission in Angola after civil war reignited last December. The World Food Programme, which is feeding hundreds of thousands of refugees in the vast south-west African country, has already evacuated its non-essential staff from Kuito.

In addition, one Red Cross delegate left and another remained. The International Committee of the Red Cross, said in Geneva. The WFP is airlifting corn, beans, cooking oil and other supplies to 55,000 people in Kuito, most of them refugees.

The unpaved roads to the town are usually impassable because of fighting and torrential rains. Aid workers say if fighting hits Kuito, its airport could be closed, cutting off the town from food supplies. The population of Kuito, 360 miles south-east of the capital Luanda, doubled to 400,000 two months ago as villagers fled fighting in the countryside between government forces and the rebels.

The United Nations Security Council voted on 26 February to close the UN peacekeeping mission in Angola, saying there was no more peace to keep after a 20-year civil war resumed. The council called for the phasing out of the UN Observer Mission in Angola by next Saturday.

Kofi Annan, UN Secretary-General, cautioned against blaming the United Nations for the mission's failure, saying the government and the rebel group Unita must bear responsibility. (AP)

IN BRIEF

Death-camp chief back on trial

THE TRIAL of Dinko Sakic, 77, the only known living commandant of a Nazi-era death camp is set to reconvene today after a 10-day delay brought about by his ill health. Sakic commanded the Jasenovac concentration camp run by Croatia's wartime Nazi puppet state. He was extradited from Argentina last June.

Store fire may be 'revenge attack'

TURKISH POLICE said a department store may have been set alight to avenge the capture of the Kurdish leader Abdullah Ocalan. Thirteen people died in the blaze on Saturday. Since Mr Ocalan's capture last month Turkey has witnessed a sharp increase in violence.

Ethiopia accused of border attack

ERITREA ACCUSED Ethiopia of launching a major offensive, with infantry, tanks, artillery and aircraft, on the border between the two countries in the Horn of Africa. The border dispute first erupted into fighting last May. Last month Eritrea accepted an Organisation of African Unity peace plan.

New Analysis: The UK's biggest shopping centre opens tomorrow. Does the ailing sector need it?

Bluewater's ripple effect on retail

BY NIGEL COPE
Associate City Editor

WHEN THE Bluewater shopping centre opens its doors to shoppers near Dartford tomorrow it will become Britain's ninth regional mega-mall.

It will also be Britain's biggest, nudging ahead of rivals such as the Metro Centre on Tyneside, Merryhill in Dudley and two centres that opened last year, the Trafford Centre near Manchester and Cribbs Causeway near Bristol. In total it will add another 1.5 million sq ft of retail selling space, the equivalent of almost two new branches of Harrods.

Shoppers will no doubt flock to this latest mammoth on the motorway. They will be mesmerised by the 320 shops spread across three themed areas - the Guildhall for "the discerning shopper", the Rose Gallery devoted to "family focus", and the Thames Walk with high street fashion shops, cafes and bars.

As well as visiting the three anchor stores, John Lewis, House of Fraser and Marks & Spencer, weary shoppers will be able to re-charge their batteries in the leisure areas which include a 12-screen cinema and the Water Circus. This area includes a man-made lake where customers can try their hand at boating, ice-skating and cycling.

In addition, there are 13,000 car-parking spaces and a 200-space creche in which to park the kids.

But does Britain's beleaguered retail sector need another gigantic, US-style mall? With the sector already suffering from chronic over-supply and retailers still licking their wounds after one of the worst trading years in recent memory, will Bluewater not exacerbate those problems?

The developers of Bluewater, the Australian Lend Lease Corporation, say not. They point to the fact that the £350m mall has been fully let since September, a rarity for such developments. Demand has been strong, analysts say, despite retail rents among the highest in the country.

But the issue of over-supply, as opposed to weak consumer demand, has tended to be overlooked in the consumer spending debate. UK retailers spent the latter part of last year complaining endlessly about van-



The Bluewater shopping centre, near Dartford, has 320 shops, cafes, bars and cinemas and a man-made lake which offers ice-skating and boating

ishing consumer confidence and weak sales. But a look at the official sales data for the year shows that 1998 retail volumes rose by 2.9 per cent on 1997. Sales by value were ahead by a very respectable 4 per cent. Every part of the retail sector, department stores, clothing and footwear and household goods, showed increases.

It is true that one of the problems last year was that many retailers based their autumn ordering on retail demand in the spring when consumer confidence was high. When demand evaporated in October, shops were left grossly over-stocked.

But the amount of new shopping space coming on stream received less attention. Two massive new regional malls opened last year, the Trafford Centre and Cribbs Causeway, as well as a host of smaller openings. There will be more of the same this year with Bluewater being joined by two large centres in Glasgow - in Braehead and at Buchanan Galleries. In shopping

centres and on the high street most major retailers have still been expanding their store portfolios while complaining about the supply-side problems.

"Space has grown faster than spending though not as much as in the US," says George Wallace, chief executive of Management Horizons, the retail consultancy.

Clive Vaughan at Retail Intelligence agrees that Britain is "over-shopped". But he points out that retail space per head of population is still four or five-times greater in the US than it

is here. "That supply-demand issue is one of the reasons prices tend to be lower there," he says.

But if the UK retail sector is over-supplied and demand is rising only gradually, why do retailers flock to sign up to these high-cost centres where their profit margins are wafer thin. The answer, experts say, is that consumers love them.

They like the ease of access, parking and the range of shops. They like the added leisure facilities and the "entertainment". They are also reassured by the

security. Malls such as Bluewater are patrolled by security guards, filmed by closed circuit television and designed to minimise dark spots in car parks and stairways.

As Nathan Cockrell, a retail analyst at BT Alex Brown, says: "There are barriers to entry to these places. You need a car to get to them and they are safe. Subconsciously retailers and consumers respond to that."

The history of these centres also suggests that they have found a successful formula and

the UK's nine regional malls have traded well even though two of them, Meadowhall in Sheffield and Thurrock in Lakeside, opened in the teeth of the last recession. As Richard Hyman at Verdict, the retail consultants, says: "These regional centres tend to do well because they are environments people are comfortable in."

They do not benefit everyone, of course. For retailers the costs associated with entry can be so high as to make profits difficult to achieve. Prime rents at Bluewater are the same as prime high street space in Manchester or Birmingham, though half the cost on London's Oxford Street.

But as Mr Cockrell says, retailers are "falling over themselves" to get into these new centres because there are fewer of them in the development pipeline. Centres like Bluewater were first conceived in 1990, before the government started to crack down on out-of-town shopping centres and their impact on local high streets. After the few due to open this year, there will

be hardly any new mega-malls left on the stocks. Retailers will then be left to grow profits from existing stores or "in-fill" store openings in smaller retail locations. Mr Cockrell predicts a retail advertising blitz as shops attempt to woo customers with special promotions as the new space pipeline closes off.

The other potential losers are the local towns and shopping centres around Bluewater. Analysts say that surrounding towns like Dartford and Bromley and smaller high streets in South-east London will be affected. Another potential loser is Lakeside, the mega-mall just across the Thames in Essex. Some experts have said that Lakeside has been losing some trade even before Bluewater has opened and that the new mall will lure away shoppers from Kent towns such as Sevenoaks.

As Nick Bubb at SG Securities says: "Bluewater should succeed; all these regional centres do. But where it will take its share from is harder to say."

BRITAIN'S BIGGEST REGIONAL SHOPPING CENTRES

Opened	Retail Space (square metres)	No. of shops	Bluewater Facilities
Bluewater, Dartford 1999	155,669	320	Location: off the M25 near Dartford, Kent Number of shops: 320 Anchor Stores: John Lewis, House of Fraser, Marks & Spencer Development cost: £350m Estimated value: £1.1bn Developer: Lend Lease Corporation, Australia Leisure facilities: 40 restaurants, 12-screen cinema, boating, ice skating, creche facilities.
MetroCentre, Gateshead 1986	144,924	323	
Merryhill, Dudley 1986	130,060	260	
Lakeside, Thurrock 1990	121,000	309	
Trafford Centre 1998	120,770	276	
Meadowhall, Sheffield 1990	116,125	285	
Brent Cross, N London 1978	76,364	109	
Cribbs Causeway, Bristol 1998	65,030	140	
White Rose Centre, Leeds 1997	60,385	86	

Source: Healey & Baker

BA faces inter-union row as cabin crew join AEEU

BRITISH AIRWAYS faces a damaging inter-union row after thousands of cabin crew decided to join the Amalgamated Engineering and Electrical Union.

Members of the non-TUC affiliated Cabin Crew '89 voted overwhelmingly to merge with the AEEU, which until recently had no stewards and stewardesses in membership.

BY BARRIE CLEMENT

The amalgamation means that the engineering union will be at loggerheads with the Transport and General Workers' Union, the traditional organisation for cabin crew and the largest union at BA.

Leaders of the transport union are already angry with the

AEEU for winning recognition at BA's cut-price airline GO, having been selected by management following a "beauty contest" between unions.

The TGWU may now call for the engineering union to be expelled from the TUC for trespassing on its territory.

Cabin crew '89 was set up by members of the transport union

who said they wanted a more "moderate" organisation to represent them and one which concentrated only on stewards and stewardesses. The non-TUC union claims a membership of 5,500 who voted by a margin of 93 per cent for a merger with the Federation of Professional Associations, a wing of the AEEU.

An engineering union official said: "We are in discussions with the TUC over the future of Cabin Crew '89, but it would be inappropriate for me to comment further at this stage."

Bill Morris, the TGWU general secretary, said Cabin Crew '89 was a "breakaway union" and that therefore a TUC affiliate such as the engineering union could not merge with it.

"It is against the rules of the TUC to go ahead with such a merger and it would harm the cohesiveness of the trade union movement," Mr Morris said.

He added that it was now the function of the TUC's ruling general council to sort out the problem. He said he expected the AEEU to abide by the rules. The AEEU recently angered

print unions when it agreed to make a presentation to the Western Mail and Echo newspaper with a view to representing all employees. The MSF union has also submitted proposals to Trinity, the company owning the papers - although under pressure from the TUC, it has also invited the GPMU print union and the NUJ.

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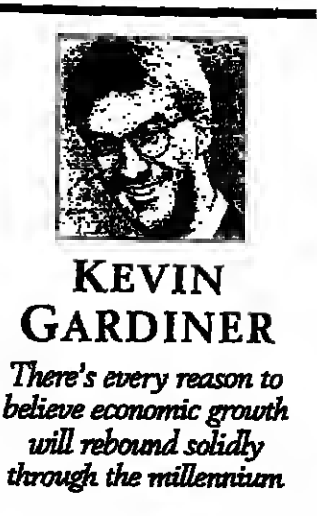
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JP 11/15/99

Don't rule out a rise in interest rates



KEVIN GARDINER
There's every reason to believe economic growth will rebound solidly through the millennium

THE IMMEDIATE verdict of the financial markets on last week's Budget was that its headline-grabbing tax cuts have made another interest rate cut a little less likely. This may have been premature, and I think it is quite likely that rates will fall again, perhaps to 5 per cent, before the summer. However, looking beyond the short-term debate, fiscal policy may eventually contribute to a solid rebound in growth into the millennium.

As this becomes apparent, official interest rates may have to rise again, and possibly sharply. This possibility is not yet being seriously considered by the money markets, which currently envisage a smooth glide path towards eventual monetary union.

This week we may get the Bank of England's post-dated verdict. The Bank's Monetary Policy Committee was briefed on the broad shape of Gordon Brown's package before deciding, on 3 March, to leave interest rates unchanged - the first time that rates hadn't fallen at a monthly MPC meeting since September.

On Wednesday the minutes of the March meeting are released, and they may reveal whether the Budget was a material factor in the committee's decision. I doubt the Budget played a big role in the MPC's deliberations.

The net tax cuts that it contained were significant. They were also unexpected, and the Bank's

weakness flagged by last year's surveys. It looks as if export deliveries in particular may have taken their long-feared tumble in the first quarter, and the latest data again show too many unsold goods sitting on manufacturers' and distributors' shelves for comfort. The economy still looks set to slow further in the first half of 1999.

Meanwhile, even us hardened inflation cynics concede that a long-awaited - and often-forecast - dip in RPIX inflation to below-target levels is likely soon. And the new average earnings data, which must surely be set in statistical stone for the time being at least, show pay growth trending steadily lower.

Alongside this prospective slowing in output and inflation, the pound is once again defying economic gravity and has pushed back above levels not seen since before interest rates began to fall. The currency has thus made no contribution to the loosening of monetary conditions seen since the autumn, yet the Bank has hinted that it would welcome one (and indeed, has been forecasting one). All this suggests that it is too soon to proclaim the trough in interest rates.

However, there are good reasons for thinking that the economy will begin to revive during the second half of the year, and that it will gather significant momentum as we move through 2000.

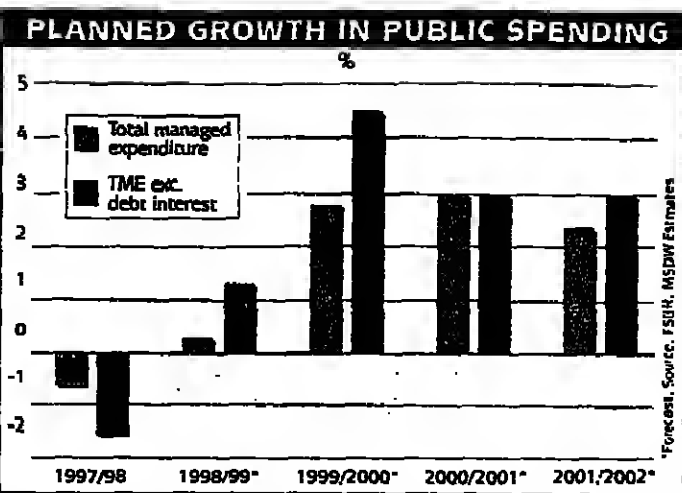
Perhaps most importantly, household finances are in solid shape. Aggregate wealth to income ratios are at an all-time high, and many consumers are experiencing a significant increase in their real spending power during 1999 thanks to low mortgage rates and continuing (albeit slowing) growth in pay.

For some years now I have been tracking the fortunes of a fictional consumer whose finances are reasonably representative of a moderately-gearred borrower. In 1999, their real spending power will rise by roughly one-tenth, to a level more than half as high again as at the peak of the 1980s boom.

But another factor, which has been overlooked in last week's debate about the incremental impact of the Budget and its short-term impact on interest rates, is the underlying trend in fiscal stance.

The Chancellor argues that fiscal policy has been tightened significantly since the Government took office. There has certainly been a big improvement in the public sector accounts - a current deficit equivalent to 3 per cent of GDP in 1996/97 has been transformed into a surplus of 0.5 per cent in 1998/99.

The Treasury estimate that almost three-fifths of this turnaround has been generated by restraint on public spending, and that tax changes and economic growth have each contributed just over a fifth.



It is no surprise to find a Labour Chancellor being tough on public spending. Of the three previous post-war Chancellors who managed to cut real discretionary spending, two were Labour (Roy Jenkins and Dennis Healey).

However, Mr Brown is planning to take the brakes off. A significant increase in public spending from 1999/00 was announced last June - a profile which was reaffirmed in November, and again last week.

Having fallen slightly in the last two years, total managed expenditure is projected to grow by almost 3 per cent in real terms, on average, in the next two years.

If we exclude falling interest payments on the national debt, which may largely be saved or reinvested by their recipients, average real growth is close to 4 per cent. This could contribute roughly 0.8 per cent per annum to GDP growth.

The plans have long been known in outline, and so attracted little new attention last week. Much of the increase in spending takes the form of capital investment, and so is excluded from the projections of the widely-watched cyclically-adjusted Budget balances published in the Financial Statement and Budget Report.

Meanwhile, of the tax changes since 1996/97, perhaps half is accounted for by the abolition of tax credits on dividends. The bulk of this revenue will have been raised from pension funds, which were in

Buffett admits his 'very big mistake'

BY ANDREW VERITY

WARREN BUFFETT, the legendary American investment guru, yesterday reported a 48 per cent jump in earnings at his investment vehicle, Berkshire Hathaway, but warned he was still struggling to find good shares with long-term appeal.

In his annual letter to shareholders, Mr Buffett admitted Berkshire's performance was "not as good as it looks", with most of the gains coming from issuing shares in subsidiary companies.

Mr Buffett, whose homespun utterances have earned him the nickname Sage of Omaha, said his equity portfolio had underperformed the S&P 500 index and decided his own decision to sell \$50m of shares in McDonalds at the start of 1998. Shares in McDonalds returned 62 per cent over the year.

"My decision to sell McDonalds was a very big mistake," he wrote. "Overall, you would have been better off last year if I had regularly snuck off to the movies during market hours."



Buffett: Equity portfolio underperformed S&P 500

Mr Buffett said he and his vice-chairman, Charles Munger, were struggling to find stocks with long-term appeal. But he avoided a repeat of remarks he made earlier this month on a US talk show, when he said market valuations were "high by historic standards".

He also failed to disclose the outcome of large, high-profile investments in silver, oil and bonds, except to say he had "eliminated certain of the positions discussed last year and added certain others".

Mr Buffett said in February last year he had spent \$650m buying 129.7 million ounces of silver close to a quarter of annual world output, calculating demand would outpace production. The price of silver has since fallen by 15 per cent.

At the start of 1998, Berkshire Hathaway also held \$4.6bn in "zero-coupon Treasury bonds". US regulators' records show the company sold \$200m during the year.

Since he took over as head of Berkshire Hathaway in 1965, Mr Buffett has grown the value of the company's book value from \$19 to \$37,801 a share, much of it through holdings in Coca-Cola, American Express and Gillette.

Mr Buffett's annual report shows he ditched a holding in Citigroup, the world's biggest financial services company, worth around \$1bn. His purchases included General Re, the US reinsurance giant, for \$16m.

Berkshire last year amassed a \$15m cash stockpile which may be used for a large acquisition.

WHAT THE PAPERS SAID

A ROUND-UP OF SUNDAY BUSINESS STORIES

THE INDEPENDENT
■ Diageo, the world's biggest drinks company, is set to sell Cinzano as part of a clear-out of underperforming European brands. The clear-out, which also includes the sale of Greek, German and Italian brands, is expected to raise £110m. The drinks company this month raised £218m from the sale of 14 North American brands.

■ Mirror Group has written to shareholders to seek approval for the sale of its 19 per cent stake in Scottish Media Group for £110m. The approval is necessary under Takeover Panel rules because of the group's status as a takeover target. Trinity, one of the companies bidding for the Mirror, has complained to the Panel about the proposed sale.

The Sunday Telegraph
■ The Office of Fair Trading may ask News International to give an undertaking not to cut the price of The Times, the paper said. John Bridgeman, the director general of Fair Trading, has been advised a referral to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission will be on safer legal ground if NI has turned down the request.

■ Co-Operative Retail Services is close to agreeing a deal to sell 41 department stores to Helical Bag, the property company, for £75m. Helical is thought to be the front-runner among 12 bidders for the stores, known as the high street as Living.

THE SUNDAY TIMES
■ The Government is set to offer BMW £200m towards the £1.5bn-plus cost of transforming Rover's Longbridge factory and creating a new family of medium-sized cars.

■ Dresdner Bank is looking for a way to step into the takeover battle in French banking. Dresdner is considering a bid for Bank Nationale de Paris, which last week launched a hostile bid for both Société Générale and Paribas.

The Observer
■ Britain will this week offer BMW £150m to build a new generation of Rovers at Longbridge, clinching the plant's long-term survival. The final package will amount to £200m, including local authority grants. Senior BMW executives, who have said they will invest £1.5bn if they decide to build the new models in the UK, will weigh the offer against a subsidy package offered by the Hungarian government.

■ The Government is set to collect a £1.6m windfall because of a 12-month gap between the abolition of the married couple's allowance and the introduction of the new children's tax credit. Economists and accountants criticised the Treasury for implying in last week's Budget that the tax credit would replace the allowance immediately.

SUNDAY BUSINESS
■ Warren Buffett, the investment guru known as the Sage of Omaha, has beaten the S&P 500 index for the 18th year running. But he also owned up to a losing year on the world's markets. Mr Buffett's investment company, Berkshire Hathaway, made a

The Mail
■ A £1bn bid battle for Manchester United plc could be sparked by new forecasts on the future of pay-per-view TV. A report commissioned by Premiership clubs is to suggest that pay-per-view revenues should add between £50m and £100m to Manchester United's annual profits.



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Company	Stock	Price	Wtd Avg	Yld
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		JES		JUL 14	
		LIFE ASSURANCE			
1556	Atlantic	1037.0	-76.0	4.9	
1557	Equitable	1070.0	-76.0	4.9	
1558	Metropolitan	1070.0	-76.0	4.9	
1559	Prudential	1070.0	-76.0	4.9	
1560	Rockefeller	1070.0	-76.0	4.9	
1561	St Paul	1070.0	-76.0	4.9	
1562	Union	1070.0	-76.0	4.9	
1563	Western	1070.0	-76.0	4.9	
1564	Metropolitan	1070.0	-76.0	4.9	
1565	Prudential	1070.0	-76.0	4.9	
1566	Rockefeller	1070.0	-76.0	4.9	
1567	St Paul	1070.0	-76.0	4.9	
1568	Union	1070.0	-76.0	4.9	
1569	Western	1070.0	-76.0	4.9	
1570	Metropolitan	1070.0	-76.0	4.9	
1571	Prudential	1070.0	-76.0	4.9	
1572	Rockefeller	1070.0	-76.0	4.9	
1573	St Paul	1070.0	-76.0	4.9	
1574	Union	1070.0	-76.0	4.9	
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1576	Metropolitan	1070.0	-76.0	4.9	
1577	Prudential	1070.0	-76.0	4.9	
1578	Rockefeller	1070.0	-76.0	4.9	
1579	St Paul	1070.0	-76.0	4.9	
1580	Union	1070.0	-76.0	4.9	
1581	Western	1070.0	-76.0	4.9	
1582	Metropolitan	1070.0	-76.0	4.9	
1583	Prudential	1070.0	-76.0	4.9	
1584	Rockefeller	1070.0	-76.0	4.9	
1585	St Paul	1070.0	-76.0	4.9	
1586	Union	1070.0	-76.0	4.9	
1587	Western	1070.0	-76.0	4.9	
1588	Metropolitan	1070.0	-76.0	4.9	
1589	Prudential	1070.0	-76.0	4.9	
1590	Rockefeller	1070.0	-76.0	4.9	
1591	St Paul	1070.0	-76.0	4.9	
1592	Union	1070.0	-76.0	4.9	
1593	Western	1070.0	-76.0	4.9	
1594	Metropolitan	1070.0	-76.0	4.9	
1595	Prudential	1070.0	-76.0	4.9	
1596	Rockefeller	1070.0	-76.0	4.9	
1597	St Paul	1070.0	-76.0	4.9	
1598	Union	1070.0	-76.0	4.9	
1599	Western	1070.0	-76.0	4.9	
1600	Metropolitan	1070.0	-76.0	4.9	
1601	Prudential	1070.0	-76.0	4.9	
1602	Rockefeller	1070.0	-76.0	4.9	
1603	St Paul	1070.0	-76.0	4.9	
1604	Union	1070.0	-76.0	4.9	
1605	Western	1070.0	-76.0	4.9	
1606	Metropolitan	1070.0	-76.0	4.9	
1607	Prudential	1070.0	-76.0	4.9	
1608	Rockefeller	1070.0	-76.0	4.9	
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1611	Western	1070.0	-76.0	4.9	
1612	Metropolitan	1070.0	-76.0	4.9	
1613	Prudential	1070.0	-76.0	4.9	
1614	Rockefeller	1070.0	-76.0	4.9	
1615	St Paul	1070.0	-76.0	4.9	
1616	Union	1070.0	-76.0	4.9	
1617	Western	1070.0	-76.0	4.9	
1618	Metropolitan	1070.0	-76.0	4.9	
1619	Prudential	1070.0	-76.0	4.9	
1620	Rockefeller	1070.0	-76.0	4.9	
1621	St Paul	1070.0	-76.0	4.9	
1622	Atlantic	1037.0	-76.0	4.9	
1623	Equitable	1070.0	-76.0	4.9	
1624	Metropolitan	1070.0	-76.0	4.9	
1625	Prudential	1070.0	-76.0	4.9	
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Code	Em	Stock	Price	WACB	Yld	P/E	Code
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هکتار زمین صفا

Literary bantamweight hits below the belt

THERE WAS a big conference in Hammersmith last weekend, on falling standards in British arts and education. It was called "Culture Wars: Dumbing Down or Wising Up?" I was asked to take part in a discussion of the Western canon, that vast shelf of literary texts that have become accepted as "classics" because they're still taught on the English syllabus or because the reading public has kept them in print down the years from sheer enthusiasm, helped by the odd TV dramatisation with screenplay by Andrew Davies and frocks by the Acme Plunge-Line Drawstring Bodice Ltd.

Four of us (two academics, a novelist-lecturer and I) pondered whether the Parnassian Premier League of book titles was still the best of literary study for modern youth. It's been a bone of contention for 20 years that most of the authors deemed worthy of study, from Chaucer to Chekhov, are dead, white European males, or Dvems, as they've been sarcastically christened by academics who would like to see other voices - black writing, women's writings - represented, to give a clearer view of creative literature rather than the standard hierarchies.

When it was my turn, I banged on about the tentative canonisation of novels and poetry collections in the books pages of the British press, and how the evaluation of the better and the best was a natural human response. I talked about how great writers, from Coleridge to Solzhenitsyn, still found audiences who crammed debating halls from Edinburgh to Hay-on-Wye, keen to learn more about their lives, and to be steered towards a fresh look at their finest works...

A question from the floor: A Professor of English at Manchester Metropolitan University said how nice to have a literary journalist around, in this academic galere, and to hear his exciting views. (Uh-oh). Fascinating, he went on, to learn there were people alive who considered there were still such things as "masterpieces" and "classics". He grew eloquent about the sighting of a dinosaur such as I, who actually bought this elderly stuff about novels being flowerings of the human imagination, when, since 1971, he'd been teaching *The Death of the Grand Narrative*. "Where," he coo-



JOHN WALSH

ON MONDAY

cluded, "has Mr Walsh been for the last 30 years?" It was something of a poser on a quiet Sunday afternoon. How had I missed these exciting developments in literary theory, that had comprehensively trashed *Middlemarch* and *Tom Jones*, remastered *Ulysses* and *Madame Bovary* and sent *The Idiot* to the great skip in the sky? There's not much you can do when told you've missed the boat, critically speaking, for most of your working life. "How on earth," I responded crossly, "have you missed the culture of appreciation over the last 15 years - the explosion of literary festivals, the rise of readers' groups, the flood of new prizes, sponsored by commercial firms

who smell an exploitable public interest, the popular academic reviewers who assume that some books and their authors are 'great' and will remain so?" It seemed odd, I snarled, that the popular response to literature seemed to be less susceptible to changes of fashion than that of university departments. "Would you call 30 years a fashion?" said the professor sleekly. Then everyone else piled in.

Was I right? It's been bothering me all week. Once, in the mid-19th century, studying literature at university was considered a freakish and idle pursuit, like doing a PhD on Australasian Soap Opera these days. Now there's talk of joining Literature courses to Cultural Studies courses as a joint discipline, and the business of reading and responding to the best books ever written is to be downgraded all over again. What a mercy one doesn't have to be an English student now (and certainly not at Manchester Metropolitan University). Better, perhaps, to be out in the real world, where you can pick holes in *Anna Karenina*, or cry up the virtues of *Confessions of a Justified Sinner* without being told you're wasting your time worrying about the "quality" of either. One goes to Aristotle (below) at these trying moments. "The many judge better, about both music and poetry," he wrote in the *Politics*. "The crowd judges much better than any individual, whoever he may be." Even a university professor.

AT 4AM yesterday morning, I listened as a brace of ponderous black boxers shugged it out together for the edification of a mass audience avid for some British glory. I refer of course to Frank Bruno and Chris Eubank, both of whom featured on Talk Radio's exclusive coverage of the big fight in Madison Square Garden.

It was quite an experience. Once we'd got past round seven, all pretence at objectivity from the British commentators hit the canvas. "Holyfield is get-

ting slaughtered here," said Eubank excitedly. "It's absolutely fabulous. I've never seen Lewis box so well." "There's a swelling to Holyfield's right brow," reported Jim Rosenthal with glee. "He came into the ring singing; the only singing now is in his right ear." He chuckled. "Lewis is set to become the first undisputed British boxing world champion of the century."

Eubank went all dreamy. "I've never seen him so poised. He's like a ballet dancer up there. It's all about poise. The first one to lose his poise loses the fight." There were a number of sibilants in this outburst. My radio was drenched in saliva.

Over to Frank Bruno at Talk Radio HQ in Oxford Street, London. "E's punishin' 'Ollyfield," said Frank. "Do'n' a wickid number on 'im. It's beautif'ul to watch. Just as long as Lennox don't get lacky-daisical."

By now we were at round nine. "A good left hook there from Holyfield," said Rosenthal, reminding us there was still some boxing going on, "but I make it six rounds to two to Lewis." Eubank's *ad hominem* approach to the noble art continued. "Lewis just getting better looking as he goes along," he breathed. "If you could see Holyfield's face, he just looks bludgeoned." General agreement among the Brits. "This is going to be an historic moment."

In the tenth, someone noticed a cut on Lewis's nose, but nobody worried about that. Not when "Holyfield is only punching in spurts. His right eye is closing."

(Rosenthal) and "What a beautiful fight. He's doing a brilliant job, know what I mean?" (Bruno). The commentary had shrunk from being a description of a bout, to a simple reiteration: "He's going to win, he's going to win, Oh look a jab, he's going to win."

By the 11th, they were virtually breaking out the champagne. "I think Lennox has got this wrapped up," said Eubank. "It's a



Eubank (left) and Bruno: Fighting to protect British honour, live on radio



Mirror

wonderful performance." Round 12, the last round, and "Chris Eubank is on his feet, so are hundreds of British fans. There are Union jacks flying everywhere."

It was surprising, on the whole, to hear that Evander was still in the ring, or indeed the building. "I'm not worried about Holyfield now," said Chris. "He's a spent force."

The match ended. All agreed it was a privilege to have been at such a notable victory. "Nobody's ever done it, all century," said Rosenthal in amazement, though nothing had actually been done yet. "Lewis," said Bruno in London. "E made it all look so easy. E did a wickid job." "There's only one decision possible here," said Eubank.

Then the referee announced the decision. It was a draw. Three judges, three different marks. The British judge, Larry O'Connell, made it 115-115. "This is the most disgraceful thing," said Frank Bruno, sounding suddenly like a circuit judge. "It's daylight robbery. They should be ashamed of themselves."

Eubank went further. "This is a travesty against justice. Larry O'Connell scored a draw and his paymasters are going to have to answer," he fumed. It was surprising they didn't produce an instant conspiracy theory about the perfidious Irish rigging the votes. Bruno and Eubank went off sounding as if they'd like to bash up somebody.

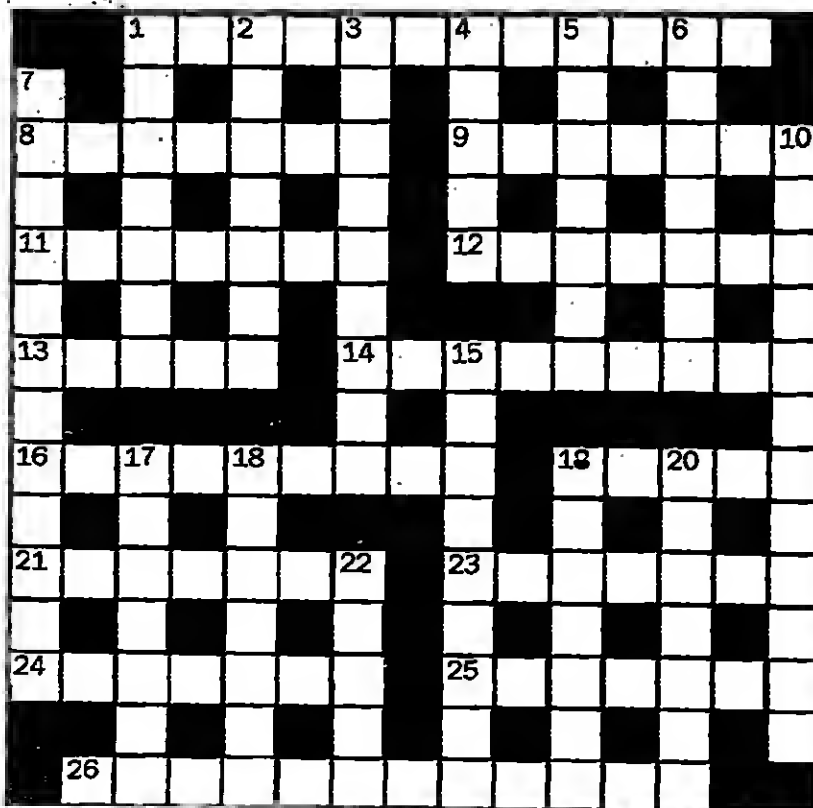
There's nothing worse than a foregone conclusion which isn't.

WHEN I confessed last week to my unhealthy passion for the new Fantastic Plastic Elastic chair by Ron Arad, I didn't realise dozens of you would demand to know where to get one. This is not a consumer column, thank you very much, but a display case of cutting-edge transmedial analysis. I am a surfer of the Zeitgeist, ears attuned to the charivari of modern life. I am not here to flog furniture. But if you must know they cost £125 and come in numerous colours from Artworks, 21-22 Upper St, Islington London N1 (0171-359 4778). And they really are gorgeous.

THE MONDAY CROSSWORD

No.3870 Monday 15 March

by Esau



- 24 Get angry, after salesman withdraws some toiletry (7)
25 It should protect sewer from minor damage (7)
26 Big day in Missouri (12)

DOWN

- 1 It's quite a few days after New Year's Eve (7)
2 Rig up lining of hood for Western female (7)
3 Sick, say, with bile disorder that can't be understood? (9)
4 Exotic drums strike up a note (5)
5 Rival, one unable to fly after a certain time (7)
6 There's a fuller description of such figures (7)
7 Stiffness from doing too many exercises, eventually marked? (7,5)
10 Wonderful Greek city hosting Eastern king seen turning up (3,4,5)
15 Bright one kept in college went into action (9)
17 There's no charge for one's particular contribution to physics (7)
18 Cooked cutlet served with English salad (7)
19 Pretend to have secreted gold overseas (7)
20 Can I manage to be friendly? (7)
22 Make a fuss, missing a Greek island (5)

ACROSS

- 1 Abandon TV as childish entertainment? (4-2-3-3)
8 Extension of deadline for book production (7)
9 Built ET to look weird - A non-human flier (4-3)
11 After meal, front the band in performance of rag (7)
12 Adult opposed to a basic diet, wanting richness (7)
13 Change side at first to faithful prince, maybe (5)
14 Be relieved one's abandoned dilapidated summerhouse (9)
16 Coming together to study complaint with hospital dept (9)
19 Saying few words, leaves loose ends (5)
21 A bird's call cut short - it's gone back in - in the water? (7)
23 Problem facing Alexander not heard of in legend (7)

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3 Blackburn's young pups battle to stay in the Premier pack

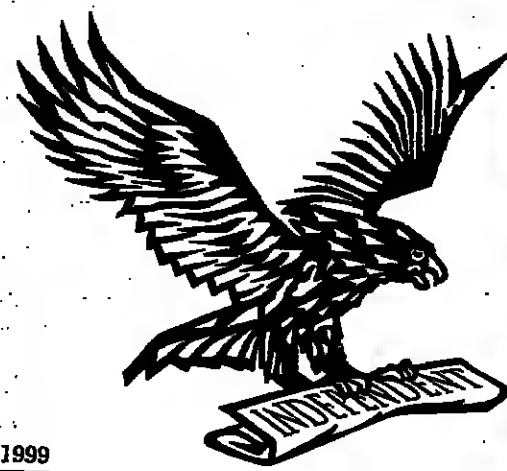


6 Istabraq's Cheltenham quest to join the legends of the turf

8 Martin Johnson: rugby union bad-boy or witch-hunt victim?



12 Paul brothers inspire Bradford's Challenge Cup cruise



SPORT

15 March 1999

Lewis lets the prize escape



**RICHARD WILLIAMS
IN NEW YORK**

IT WAS, in most eyes, an old-fashioned mugging on Seventh Avenue. After 12 rounds of boxing, Lennox Lewis believed he had Evander Holyfield's titles in his pocket. But then came the judges' verdict, depriving him of the right to call himself the undisputed heavyweight champion of the world.

Later, when the waves of noise had died away in the giant arena, when the fighters and their retinues had left the building and the maintenance crews had moved in, one sound echoed around the corridors of Madison Square Garden: the deafening cackle of Don King. A night that will go down in boxing history for its failure to produce a winner in the ring had delivered to King a double victory. Holyfield and Lewis, w. almost certainly fight again, generating another fortune in pay-per-view receipts. And, thanks to the judges whose consensus was unable to split the fighters, King retains a grip on the heavyweight division which a Lewis victory would very likely have destroyed.

Not since Sonny Liston quit on his stool in his first fight against the then Cassius Clay 35 years ago has there been such a contentious ending to the biggest of all prize fights. Lewis's connections were aghast and angry. Even Holyfield's handlers seemed abashed. And the accusations concerning King's baleful influence began.

"I knew they wouldn't let me leave here with three belts without trying to do some funny business," Lewis said, amid a notable display of even temper. Others were less moderate. "This is the sport I earn my living from," Emanuel Steward, his trainer, said, "and I'm ashamed of it. This was supposed to give boxing a resurgence of interest and it turns out to be an embarrassment."

The CompuBox statistics told one story. They said that Lewis had landed a total of 338 punches to Holyfield's 130, that he had connected with 187 jabs to Holyfield's 52, and that he had made 161 power punches count, against Holyfield's 78. Supporting evidence came in the physical and mental condition of both men at their post-fight press conference, during which Holyfield appeared bruised and winded while Lewis looked fresh enough to fight a few more rounds.

Some of the judges saw other evidence, and the difference of viewpoint was exaggerated by their 'cards'. Scoring is assessed on punches landed in the target area,

and is compiled round by round on the basis of marks out of 10. So a split round is scored 10-10, a narrowly decided round will be 10-9, and a clear-cut round (of which there were none on the scorecards on Saturday night) will be 10-8. A high concentration of punches in a single round has little influence on the overall outcome - unless it produces a knock-out.

There were no knockdowns on Saturday. One judge, Stanley Christodoulou of South Africa, appointed by the World Boxing Association, went along with the computer, giving the fight to Lewis, by 116-113. "Lewis's blows were more damaging and he landed more of them," he said. The International Boxing Federation judge, Jean

Williams of New Jersey, gave it to Holyfield, by 115-113. "I scored by the blows that connected in the target area," she said. "I had a job to do, and I did it." And the British judge, Larry O'Connell, representing the World Boxing Council and paid by the British Boxing Board of Control, had it all square at 115-115. "I know I'll get some stick," he said, "but it's my decision to call the fight as I see it. When I score each round I never know what the overall score is going to be." Since the result is not determined by points but by majority, the result was a draw, outraging the vast majority of observers, whose opinion was based on the punch count.

Anyone choosing to argue the case for the outcome of the judges' decisions is likely to end up looking

as conspicuous as a old-time hooker on the newly cleaned-up 42nd Street. But at this level a title is not easily given up. It has to be taken away from its holder. Even though his performance exceeded most people's expectations, Lewis did not make the most of his opportunities to finish Holyfield off, and towards the end of the fight he eased back in order to preserve himself from danger. For this reason, and because boxing is not about the sheer volume of blows but about the right blows at the right time, my scorecard read 115-115, like that of the much-abused Larry O'Connell, with five rounds to each man and two even.

The night had begun with a powerful sense of occasion. The sold-out house included Michael Douglas,

Spike Lee, Bo Derek, Liam Neeson, John F. Kennedy Jr, Paul Simon, Sarah Jessica Parker, Keith Richards, Magic Johnson, John McEnroe, Jerry Seinfeld and the Rev Jesse Jackson, plus 7,000 British fans who joined in a pub-style rendering of the national anthem led by an actual East End publican, Harry Brown, and then spent the next hour out-cheering and out-chanting the bemused locals. Fears of more direct confrontation went happily unfulfilled.

Lewis confounded his detractors by beginning the evening like an runaway express, taking the fight to Holyfield and winning the first two rounds with a convincing demonstration of his jab, although Holyfield came on stronger as each round pro-

gressed. For the American, the third round was always going to be the crux of the fight, since this was when he had promised to knock Lewis out. He certainly did his damndest, moving up through the gears as he crowded Lewis into a corner, trying to catch him with left hooks. By surviving that tumultuous onslaught, Lewis had dismantled Holyfield's only strategy. "There is no Plan B," the American had said before the fight, and from then on he was making it up as he went along.

Both men rested in round four before Lewis took up the initiative in the fifth. Backing Holyfield on to the ropes, he unleashed a sequence of long right hands to the head, trying to measure Holyfield for the big one. This was Lewis's best chance, but

he failed to capitalise on it. Jean Williams's decision to score this round, Lewis's best, 10-9 to Holyfield represented the night's biggest absurdity. The fighters resumed a mutual eagerness in the sixth, with Lewis well ahead as the fight reached its half-way mark, having succeeded in preventing Holyfield from getting inside and engaging him at close quarters. But there was a sign of the continuing threat from Holyfield when the American, having pressed Lewis, suddenly withdrew, sucking his opponent towards him before striking with great suddenness. But Lewis was alert enough to evade the danger and made further gains in the seventh, landing several good long rights and

Continued on page 9



Evander Holyfield feels the power of Lennox Lewis as Britain's WBC champion connects with a left jab during Saturday night's drawn unification title fight in New York

Al Bello/Allsport

Football: 2-5 ■ The week ahead: 6 ■ Brian Viner: 7 ■ Rugby Union: 8 ■ Racing: 10 ■ Cricket: 11 ■ Tennis: 12

Evening Worship

ABBOT ALE WORSHIPPED SINCE 1792



Trust in the game can pay great dividends

I WORKED with the Football Grounds Improvement Trust when it was established by the then Minister for Sport, Denis Howell, in 1975 and later for almost 20 years with its successor, the Football Trust. So I was delighted when the noted Raith Rovers fan, Gordon Brown, ensured the survival of the Trust last week by further cutting the pools betting tax in his Budget.

The football pools have been competing manfully with the National Lottery, so the reduction in tax (now 17.5 per cent) means they can streamline their operations while maintaining their £8m annual contribution to the Football Trust.

The Football Trust's is a spectacular success story. Little over 10 years ago, a leading news-

paper proclaimed in an editorial that football was a slum sport watched by slum people in slum stadiums. The game had been brought almost to its knees by a succession of crowd tragedies and awful outbreaks of violence on the terraces.

John Major first reduced the pools betting duty in 1990, thus releasing a flow of funds used to implement the Taylor Report. Latterly the Football Trust has been partly funded through the proceeds of a three per cent reduction in the tax.

New grounds have been built, new stands have gone up, and terraces in the lower divisions have been made safer. The Trust has contributed £300m to the game. Football has been transformed.

The Taylor work is now almost complete and the Trust was fearing for its survival. Comprising representatives from all the major football bodies, it holds a uniquely independent position capable of giving help to the game at all levels throughout the UK.

Government and football should now come together to forge a new, longer-term future for the Trust in the millennium.

There is so much to be done and the Football Trust, chaired by Labour MP Tom Pendry, the former shadow spokesman for sport, can play a vital role.

Already the Premier League helps Football League clubs. It provides £10m a year for centres of excellence and ground improvements up to the year 2001.



GRAHAM KELLY

Provided the Premier League can resist the challenge from the Office of Fair Trading to its authority to negotiate television contracts on behalf of its clubs, it should continue aiding the game's lesser

brethren through the Football Trust.

Clubs in the lower leagues will always need help with safety and improvement work. And below the professional levels, the grass roots of football are crying out for help. Ten thousand sports fields have been sold off in the last 20 years.

Many inner city facilities for football are sorely in need of renovation. With nowhere to play, kids are much more likely to turn to crime, vandalism or drugs. More small-scale grass pitches are needed for the under-10s. And local authorities face a massive shortfall in the maintenance budget for schools facilities. As an example, Stanground Commu-

nity College in Peterborough faces costs of £450,000 to fit out its new sports hall.

The Stephen Lawrence Report confirmed that racism still permeates our culture and institutions. Football is part of this equation. Properly funded at all levels, the national game can become a true catalyst for change and improvement.

The Government must build on its good work, because it has not yet fully implemented its election pledge to maintain the Football Trust as a UK-wide body.

The Premier League must be prevailed upon to continue helping its lesser brethren. The Football Association, as the representative body of the whole game, must prioritise

the areas which need help most.

Bookmakers, who make massive profits out of football, must be levied at a proper level. A wager on football in a high street betting shop generates a tax which benefits horse racing and not football.

British football is unique in the role it occupies in society. In issues of health and well-being, and in the environment, and our national culture. It is unique, too, in its strength in depth. We should treasure the lower division clubs, rather than castigate them for struggling to continue against all the odds. Even the most humble can be a focus of civic pride.

Three agencies can come together and become a real force

for good in the new millennium: the Government (with the Sports Councils), football itself, and the Football Trust. Health and quality of life can be improved. Football can become a valuable vehicle in a fight against social exclusion. Girls and boys can be given better facilities and more opportunities. Their lives would be enhanced.

It needs imagination, real commitment, and co-ordination. Given the right backing a relaunched Football Trust can do the job.

If that happens, to revive some old clichés, they'll be dancing in the streets in Raith. And Gordon Brown will be justifiably over the moon. Tony Banks should set this agenda without delay.

Chelsea find Foe far too tough

IT'S OFFICIAL. The Premiership is now a "two-horse race" and Gianluca Vialli isn't in the saddle of either runner. After only their third defeat of the season the Chelsea manager spent some time playing down the West Londoners' chances of winning the title - their first since 1955 - but a rather too innocent glint in his eye suggested that the assertion should be taken with a pinch of the white stuff.

If West Ham are some sort of gauge of title aspirations then Vialli might have a point. After all, a point is all that Chelsea took from their matches against the Hammers this season while Manchester United and Arsenal achieved three wins and a draw between them against Harry Redknapp's unpredictable side.

If Chelsea's season is to be consigned to the past, then, best turn to the future and West Ham's Cameroon international midfielder Marc Vivien Foe. The £4m signing from Lens is an awkward customer, a defensive-minded player whose rambunctious style is a cross between Patrick Vieira and Paulo Wanchope. Stationed in front of the West Ham back two, his long legs intervened on several occasions when Chelsea's short-passing game threatened, while a first-half goal was questionably disallowed after a harmless-looking challenge from Marc Keller.

"It's a different-paced game than he's used to but he's settled in well," Harry Redknapp remarked afterwards. "He's a spoiler. He's strong as an ox."

West Ham's classy defensive unit benefited from this extra

BY PETER CONCHIE

layer of protection leaving the impressive Rio Ferdinand free to cope adeptly with both Chelsea strikers. Tore Andre Flo was habitually beaten in the air and Gianfranco Zola was neutralised somewhere around grass roots level, dominated and neutralised with a series of well-timed nudges and muscular interventions. The England centre-back was supported by his first lieutenant, Neil Ruddock, a reassuring presence in case things cut up rough, which they didn't.

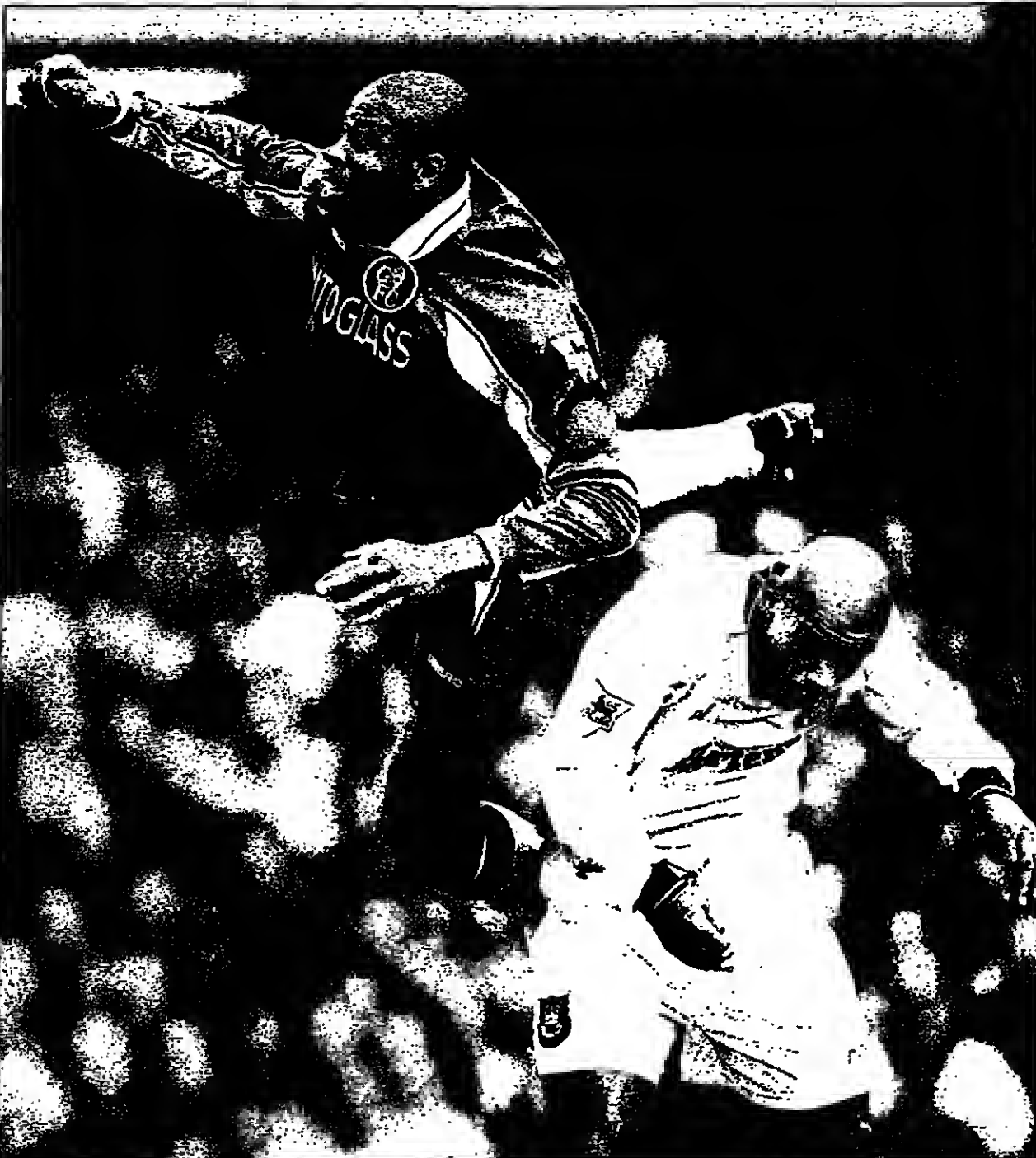
Chelsea were undone by their own integrity. Their laudably ingrained approach is to work and fashion, to shape openings and craft goals, but it was West Ham who eventually did the hard work of popping the ball between the sticks. And what hard work they made of it, too. Paul Kitson got his reward for a lonely afternoon up front, finishing inconclusively from six yards after Ed De Goey had blocked a header from the omnipresent Foe. Although the Dutch keeper scooped the ball out, it had clearly crossed the line.

Goals: Kitson (75) 0-1; Chelsea (4-2-2) De Goey, Le Saux (Petrusicu, 60), Dossou (Dobson, 60), Myers (Forrest 83), Fenech (Wright, 80), Goldson, Babayaro, Plo, Zola. Substitutes not used: Morris, Hitchcock (90).

West Ham United (4-5-1) Hiskop, Minnie, Ferdinand, Ruddock, Fenech, Lampard, Le Saux, Foe, Sinclair, Keller (Potts, 86), Kitson, Sebastians (not used), Lazaridis, Berkovic, Moncur, Forrest (94).

Referee: S. Lodge (Barnsley).

Bookings: Chelsea: Dossou, Di Matteo. West Ham United: Foe. Man of the match: Ferdinand. Attendance: 34,765.



Michael Duberry (left) impresses Trevor Sinclair with his Superman impersonation David Ashdown

Spurs escape from French fixation

SPURS ENTER the most important week of their season buoyed by only their second Premiership victory this year, although their performance was unlikely to have Barnsley, their FA Cup quarter-final hosts tomorrow, or Leicester, with whom they contest the Worthington Cup on Sunday, quaking in their boots.

Tim Sherwood's goal, as the contest reached its penultimate minute, was enough to deny Villa what would have been their second point in seven matches. If the crowd appeared as surprised as they were delighted, it was probably because Spurs had scored when David Ginola was no longer on the pitch.

George Graham's team are in danger of becoming fixated with the Frenchman. Against Villa, virtually their only attacking play was to work the ball wide to Ginola on whichever flank he was lurking and hope that one of the front two, or perhaps Sol Campbell, might connect with a cross.

As one-dimensional tactics go, it is a pretty good one. Ginola's ability to deliver with either foot, and from the most hemmed-in of positions, puts even David Beckham in the shade. The problem is that if he can be subdued - admittedly a big "if" on his present form - there is little evidence of any Plan B.

Few clubs appreciate the rewards that rigorous man-marking can bring better than Spurs' Wembley opponents. Leicester's success in the same competition two years ago owed much to Pottus Karam's limpet-like attention to Juninho, one of the few players whose destructive capacity compares with Ginola's.

BY PHIL SHAW

Tottenham Hotspur 1
Aston Villa 0

Frustratingly for Graham, Sherwood is ineligible for the final. The midfielder's well-timed runs into the penalty area lend variety to Spurs' attacks, all the more vital when Darren Anderson is as indolent as he was on Saturday. It was the Martin Peters act of the former Blackburn captain act which finished off Villa, albeit a trifle fortuitously.

When Steffen Iversen shot, Mark Bosnich failed to hold the ball for the only time. Sherwood headed the rebound against a post, but had the ball returned to him by Alan Wright's mis-cued clearance and seemed to use a hand in bundling it in. Like the referee's failure to punish Ian Walker for what appeared a cynical foul as Alan Thompson rounded him in the opening minutes, it summed up Villa's current luck.

"A scrappy goal," sighed John Gregory, ruing a win by the club he grew up supporting. "I wish we could get one." Not that he has lapsed into self-pity, being as open and honest as when Villa sweeping all before them. He blamed himself for failing to strengthen further one of the division's smaller squads, but refreshingly declined to use the lack of depth as an excuse.

Gregory also spoke candidly about his team's lack of confidence, the quality which sustained Villa at the summit until Christmas. One cameo in the first half, after Mark Draper's clever back-heeled pass gave Lee Hendrie a glimpse of goal, demonstrated the problem vividly.

Instead of shooting, the nor-

mally precocious Hendrie laid a safe ball back to Stan Collymore, who did exactly the same. The moment was lost and Villa did not create a scoring chance. Worryingly, it was a similar story in the midweek defeat at Derby.

Steve Stone could be forgiven for feeling confused. After forsaking a supposedly lost cause at Nottingham, he found himself in a team showing relegation form. Sent off for fouling Ginola when they last met, the £5.5m recruit was now delegated to check the winger's surges. The task brought a predictable caution and allowed little scope for any positive contribution.

Gregory's side may now struggle to secure the European place that once looked theirs for the taking. It was Graham who, after Villa drew at Leeds during their club-record breaking start, said they were top-six possibilities but not championship material. The words now read more like sound judgement than sour grapes.

Having been eliminated from all three knock-out competitions by mid-January, Villa have made a sorry advert for the time-honoured concept of concentrating on the League. Concentrating on the cups may not be Graham's style in the longer term, any more his over-reliance on Ginola's maverick talents. But until next Sunday at least, Spurs' season is alive, whereas Villa's is in danger of dying on its feet.

Goals: Sherwood (89) 1-0.

Tottenham Hotspur (4-4-2): Walker; Carr, Vega, Carruth, Leeson (parry, 80), Nielsen, Anderson, Sherwood, Grant (Domerguez, 80); Armstrong (Iversen, 80), Ferdinand. Substitutes not used: Young, Bastion (94).

Aston Villa (3-5-2): Bosnich; Schmeichel, Barry, Stone, Draper, Hendrie, Thompson, Wright, Collymore, Henson (Jocelyn, 67). Substitutes not used: Byfield, Delany, Samuel, Oates (94).

Referee: P. Jones (Loughborough). Bookings: Tottenham: Ferdinand, Villa: Barry, Draper, Stone, Hendrie. Man of the match: Ginola. Attendance: 35,993.

Cole inspired by return to his old haunts

IT IS A pity Manchester United could not have contrived to play Internazionale at St James' Park instead of the San Siro on Wednesday night. At Newcastle's ground, they could have expected to score at least one priceless away goal.

In the 45 games he played there as a plundering Magpie, Andy Cole claimed 47 goals. In the three matches he has played there as a Red Devil, he has scored in a further three.

The Toon Army were not strictly accurate when they paraphrased Anfield's old Ian Rush ditty to proclaim that every time Cole got the ball he scored a goal. But they were not far wide of the mark either.

On average, every time the lightning-quick poacher has got a game at St James' he has scored a goal. From the moment he struck on his first appearance there, turning to crack a right-foot shot past Notts County's Steve Cherry at the Gallowgate End six years ago, Cole has been carrying goals to Newcastle with a productive vengeance.

His 49th was delivered after 25 minutes on Saturday, with a predatory pounce and a first-time shot from close-range after Dwight Yorke flicked on a Benning Berg header while the statuesque Laurent Charvet waited in vain for help.

His 50th, in 48 St James' Park appearances, was an equally swift Cole strike: a hurt from the blocks to beat Charvet to a clipped Ryan Giggs cross and a side-footed finish to beat Shay Given.

With that second goalscoring flash, six minutes into the second half, Newcastle were effectively beaten and Cole and his colleagues were preparing to head off on their inter mission with their four-point lead intact at the top of the Premiership.

It is unlikely to be so easy for them in Milan, though they did have to overcome a spirited early challenge from Rudi Gullit's resurgent Newcastle side, as well as a one-goal deficit, Roberto Solano having adeptly curled a 16th minute free-kick

BY SIMON TURNBULL

Newcastle United 1
Manchester United 2

In off Peter Schmeichel's left-hand post from 25 yards.

Ultimately, however, Alex Ferguson's treble-shooters won with such ease Raimond van der Gouw did not have a save to make as a second-half replacement for the flu-hit Schmeichel. But the great Dane will be back to guard his team's 2-0 advantage in the San Siro.

"I think they will get through on Wednesday," Gullit, twice a European Cup winner with Milan, predicted, "but it's going to be hard. It's going to be hostile for them in Milan. Maybe the fans won't let them sleep the night before."

And maybe Mircea Lucescu will be the one having less than quaranta winks. The Internazionale coach already has much on his mind from the first leg of the European Cup quarter-final - Yorke's heading, David Beckham's crossing, Jaap Stam's defending, Schmeichel's keeping - and his spies will now have added Cole's razor-sharp finishing to the list.

"Andy was lightning today," Ferguson enthused. "He's getting better all the time. It's been important that he and Dwight have teamed up really well."

"They have scored 47 goals this season and, 'Playing with Dwight has done a lot for me,' Cole acknowledged. "It's the kind of partnership I've been looking for ever since I played here with Peter Beardsley."

It was Kevin Keegan who ended that equally successful union. Can England's caretaker still afford to be without such a precious commodity? Goals: Solano (16) 1-0; Cole (23) 1-1; Cole (51) 1-2.

Manchester United (4-4-2): Given; Barton (Maric, 82), Charvet, Dabizas, Domt Solano, Hammann, Speed, Georgiadis (Lee, 81), Kozdral (Bala, 61), Shuster. Substitutes not used: Griffin, Harper (94).

Manchester United (4-4-2): Schmeichel (Nien der Gouw, 14-0), Neill, Stam, Berg, Irwin, Beckham, Scholes (P. Neville, 86), Keane, Giggs (Johansen, 74), Yorke. Substitutes not used: Soderberg, Blomqvist.

Bookings: Newcastle United: Georgiadis; Manchester United: Irwin. Referee: O. Ellery (Harrow). Man of the match: Cole. Attendance: 35,776.

EUROPE'S WEEKLY AMERICAN FOOTBALL NEWSPAPER

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PORTSMOUTH	V	CRYSTAL P.			

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JP 11/15/99

Ronaldo raring to go against United

RONALDO YESTERDAY warned Manchester United that he is ready and waiting to face them in their European Cup quarter-final second leg on Wednesday.

The twice World Player of the Year has been troubled by tendonitis problems all season but made his first start for Internazionale in two months in the 2-2 draw with city rivals Milan on Saturday night.

"I may not have the match rhythm back yet, but I'm ready to give everything to beat Man-

chester," said the Brazilian yesterday, who played just the first half of the derby. "Last night's game wasn't a test. It was a real match. It was difficult but I did my duty. I'm pleased with my performance. I'm gradually getting better and I don't feel any pain any more."

The team are playing well at the moment and we're creating a lot of chances. We're also

preparing very carefully for the match against Manchester, who are a great side, and are very quick on the break.

"I'm hoping to play for the whole match. It will be difficult to do so, but I'm not ruling it out. I'm certain I can go out there and do my job well. I'm convinced that the rest of the team are going to do the same. They are very, very motivated."

"This is going to be the most important match of our season. Our pride is at stake and we

must show that we are up to the mark. I'm sure both sides will have chances to score, and also that it will be a great game - possibly with a lot of goals. We have to accept they might score - we've conceded goals in all of our recent games."

"My presence alone won't be enough - we all have to do better because they won't be frightened, not of me, or of any other player."

Yesterday Serie A leaders Lazio blew the chance to open

a commanding lead when they were held to a goalless draw by bottom club Sampdoria. But the Rome club still stretched their lead to five points over Milan, Parma and Fiorentina.

Florentina wasted their chance to cut Lazio's lead by crashing 4-1 at Venezia, Uruguayan Alvaro Recoba hitting his first hat-trick for the club. Parma beat Bari 2-1 while Juventus, a further seven points adrift in fifth place, beat Udinese 2-1.

Piacenza, Vicenza and Salernitana kept alive their hopes of staying in the top flight with victories over Cagliari (1-0), Perugia (3-0) and Sampdoria (2-0).

Nantes moved nearer to winning the French Cup for the first time in 20 years with a 3-1 victory at Metz to reach the quarter-finals. They are the only first division team left in the competition. In the league, Monaco, chasing a place in next year's Champions' League, were held 1-1 at lowly Sochaux.

Robson revels in victory

MIDDLESBROUGH FINALLY enjoyed their first Premiership win of the year to ease their relegation fears - while increasing those of Southampton.

A similar result at Nottingham Forest next Saturday would leave Boro just three points short of manager Bryan Robson's safety target of 42.

Goals from strikers Mikkel Beck and Hamilton Ricard - their first in 1998 - at the end of the first half put the Teessiders firmly in the driving seat, and a third from defender Steve Vickers on 63 minutes sealed the win.

Southampton, still second bottom, missed an opportunity to climb out of the drop zone while Boro halted an alarming slump in form. They had collected just three points from a possible 27 going into the match.

Robson breathed a sigh of relief at his side's first three-point haul of 1999. Suspensions robbed Boro of four key players: Andy Townsend, the captain, Gary Pallister, Paul Gascoigne and Mark Summerbell, all forced to sit the game out.

But the win came at a high price with midfielder Phil Stamp ruled out for a month after damaging a hamstring. Stamp limped off with 20 minutes remaining.

Robson was disappointed to have lost one of his most influential performers on the day.

"You haven't scored first in a game, you haven't won a match, and the longer that goes on, the more the confidence goes out," he said. "But today's results puts that behind us and the lads can look forward to the rest of the season now and play with that bit more confidence."

"I was pleased with the lads

today. They knew it was a pressure game, it was a game we couldn't afford to lose. That's even more pleasing when you look back at the performance. A few of my senior pros really stood up to it and enjoyed the challenge today. To me, that's good players who can do it when they are under pressure."

Boro were camped inside the Southampton box on 44 minutes when Gianluca Festa's cross came back off the inside of a post and Beck slotted home.

Little more than a minute later, Paul Jones misjudged Robert Stockdale's long ball and Ricard, without a goal since the 3-2 victory at Manchester United on 19 December, gleefully ended his drought.

Victory was assured with 63 minutes gone when Southampton failed to clear Neil Maddison's corner and Vickers hammered the ball home for his first goal of the season.

"We were lucky that they didn't get two or three more at the end of the day," said Dave Jones, the Southampton manager. "I don't know why, we didn't seem up for it, we had a great opportunity to get out of the bottom three today."

Goals: Beck (44) 1-0; Ricard (45) 2-0; Vickers (63) 3-0.

Referee: Howard Webb. Attendance: 33,307.



Southampton's Mark Hughes (right) gets to grips with Middlesbrough's Robbie Mustoe yesterday. Empics

ITALIAN LEAGUE

Pos	Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1	Inter Milan	28	18	5	5	40	18	59
2	Lazio	28	17	6	5	38	20	57
3	Fiorentina	28	16	7	5	35	21	55
4	Parma	28	15	8	5	32	22	53
5	AC Milan	28	14	9	5	30	23	51
6	Juventus	28	13	10	5	28	24	49
7	AS Roma	28	12	11	5	26	25	47
8	Atalanta	28	11	12	5	24	26	45
9	Reggina	28	10	13	5	22	27	43
10	Udinese	28	9	14	5	20	28	41
11	Chievo	28	8	15	5	18	29	39
12	Empoli	28	7	16	5	16	30	37
13	Verona	28	6	17	5	14	31	35
14	Genoa	28	5	18	5	12	32	33
15	Parma	28	4	19	5	10	33	31
16	Como	28	3	20	5	8	34	29
17	Lecco	28	2	21	5	6	35	27
18	Cremonese	28	1	22	5	4	36	25
19	Avellino	28	0	23	5	2	37	23
20	Trapani	28	0	24	4	0	38	21

SCOTTISH LEAGUE

Pos	Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1	Celtic	28	18	5	5	40	18	59
2	Rangers	28	17	6	5	38	20	57
3	Dundee United	28	16	7	5	35	21	55
4	Hearts	28	15	8	5	32	22	53
5	Aberdeen	28	14	9	5	30	23	51
6	Dundee	28	13	10	5	28	24	49
7	Stirling Albion	28	12	11	5	26	25	47
8	Greenock Morton	28	11	12	5	24	26	45
9	Perth	28	10	13	5	22	27	43
10	East Fife	28	9	14	5	20	28	41
11	East Dunfermline	28	8	15	5	18	29	39
12	Queen's Park	28	7	16	5	16	30	37
13	Albion Rovers	28	6	17	5	14	31	35
14	Forfar	28	5	18	5	12	32	33
15	Stranraer	28	4	19	5	10	33	31
16	Montrose	28	3	20	5	8	34	29
17	Arbroath	28	2	21	5	6	35	27
18	Greenock Juniors	28	1	22	5	4	36	25
19	Stirling	28	0	23	5	2	37	23
20	East of Fife	28	0	24	4	0	38	21

Adebola revival prompts derby dominance

IN FRONT of their biggest home crowd for five years, Birmingham treated themselves to their most comprehensive home win of the season, a victory that was enjoyed with extra relish given that it was a West Midlands derby.

Birmingham may be nicknamed the Blues but it was the visitors who went home feeling decidedly depressed as their six-game unbeaten run came to a crushing halt and they asked if they want to finish in the top six.

That was in stark contrast to Birmingham's approach which, after a subdued first 20 minutes, produced so many chances that with a shade more luck they would have at least matched the seven they scored at Oxford in December.

The man who was more pleased than most was the destroyer-in-chief Adebola, recently dropped by his manager, Trevor Francis, but who since his recall three games ago has now scored four times.

Francis was quick to praise his rejuvenated striker, saying: "Dele is over the slump that saw him lose his place in the team. He and Peter Ndlovu were quite brilliant."

Adebola, 23, himself admitted afterwards that being left out had done him good, but on this evidence he is unlikely to be left out again as he helped Birmingham extend their run to only one defeat in their last 15 League games and virtually guaranteed a play-off place.

For his first goal Adebola turned his marker to slot the ball home from 12 yards, but it was not until five minutes after the break that Ndlovu doubled the lead. Controlling Simon Charlton's defence-splitting 50-yard diagonal pass, the Zimbabwean cut inside the defence to shoot home and 11 minutes

later Adebola simply charged down the middle of the pitch and calmly scored. Martin Grainger completed the visitors' misery with a tap-in.

Goals: Adebola (24) 1-0; Ndlovu (30) 2-0; Adebola (33) 3-0; Grainger (89) 4-0.

Referee: Howard Webb. Attendance: 25,000.

ask if they want to finish in the top six.

That was in stark contrast to Birmingham's approach which, after a subdued first 20 minutes, produced so many chances that with a shade more luck they would have at least matched the seven they scored at Oxford in December.

The man who was more pleased than most was the destroyer-in-chief Adebola, recently dropped by his manager, Trevor Francis, but who since his recall three games ago has now scored four times.

Francis was quick to praise his rejuvenated striker, saying: "Dele is over the slump that saw him lose his place in the team. He and Peter Ndlovu were quite brilliant."

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Fine for 'sleepy' Fowler Walker's costly miss

ROBBIE FOWLER is at the centre of another row as Liverpool's squabbling season continues. The England striker overslept and missed training days after his public spat with Graeme Le Saux.

Fowler scored twice in the defeat of Derby on Saturday but has been fined for his lie-in. Manager Gerard Houllier was reported in one Sunday newspaper to have fined him a week's wages, about £22,000, though sources close to the club suggest that the figure was much less, around £2,000.

A club spokesman said: "Robbie Fowler overslept and missed a training session organised for last Sunday, at which point he telephoned [Houllier] to apologise for his absence."

Fowler still faces FA action after the incident at Stamford Bridge, where he is alleged to have taunted Le Saux.

Rangers chairman David Murray has launched a bid to buy an English club, according to a report. Murray made contact with Manchester City towards the end of last year about a possible £20m investment.

Manchester United and Internazionale fans risk being sold around 10,000 forged tickets for their Champions' League match at the San Siro on Wednesday according to Italian police. Inter warned fans not to buy tickets from touts before the game. Police will use sophisticated checks at the turnstiles.

The call from Inter came two days after police in Naples arrested three men and confiscated printing and computer equipment used for making forged tickets, along with 5,000 counterfeit match tickets.

DUNDEE UNITED must now believe their name will be engraved on the Tennent's Scottish Cup in May, writes David McKinney. The Premier League side have struggled against lower league opposition in their three ties and if they progress to a semi-final meeting with Celtic they will have played six games in the competition.

Paul Sturrock's side have been forced to replay every tie so far and on Saturday they came within inches of going out to First Division Ayr United.

Rod Wallace and Jonatan Johansson gave Andy Gormon no chance on his return to Exeter. Although Mark Gower, the new signing from Tottenham, pulled a goal back for Motherwell, Rangers were always in control.

Celtic recorded a comprehensive 5-1 victory away to Aberdeen yesterday. Henrik Larsson and Mark Viduka both scoring twice, but they are still 10 points behind Rangers.

Following Airdrie's 3-0 win over Stranraer, their manager of eight years' standing, Alex MacDonald, resigned.

Andy Walker, the former Celtic and Bolton striker who scored twice from the penalty spot against Kilmarnock in an earlier round, saw his late spot-kick diverted on to the crossbar by Seb Dykstra, the Dundee United goalkeeper. The game finished goalless and will be replayed tomorrow.

Rangers, meanwhile, took another step towards the Premier League title with a 2-1 win over Motherwell. Goals from

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Christensen's title

WORLD NO one Peter Gade Christensen won his first All England title yesterday with a hard-fought 15-11, 7-15, 15-10 victory over the Indonesian teenager Taufik Hidayat.

The experienced Dane had to fight all the way against the 17-year-old Hidayat, the youngest finalist in the men's singles since the Open era began.

Christensen edged clear from 11-11 in the first game, but trailed in the second. Hidayat recovered from 0-5 in the decider to level at 6-6, but Christensen won a number of key

points as he stretched away to the title. It was the third time this decade the championship had gone to Denmark. Hidayat, seeded nine, had served notice in the past few months that he was improving quickly. Hidayat is the second youngest player in All England history to reach the men's singles final. Only his compatriot Rudy Hartono stands ahead of him after reaching his first final at the age of 16 in 1968. Clearly, he is the find of the tournament.

Marlow storm home

THE WOMEN'S Head of the River Race, held on the Tideway in London on Saturday, was won by half of the women's national squad racing as Marlow Rowing Club. The other half finished second.

Under their chief coach, Mike Spracklen, the British women have moved up a gear. Mostly this is due to Spracklen's drive and skills, although he has been blessed with a group of women who are big, strong and obstinate enough to win at the highest level.

Marlow had the edge with

Dot Blackie at seven, behind her silver medal partner Cath Bishop at stroke and with the single sculler Guin Batten at six. They were 39 seconds ahead of Tideway Scullers School, the first genuine club home.

Behind them gaps narrowed with Belvoir, the first of 17 foreign clubs, finishing in fourth place in 19min 18sec. Cambridge University Women's Boat Club won both the Senior 2 and Senior 3.

RUGBY LEAGUE RESULTS AND TABLE

SILK CUT CHALLENGE CUP QUARTER-FINALS

Team	Score	Team	Score
Cardiff	20-10	Widnes	10-10
Leeds	10-10	Widnes	10-10
Leeds	10-10	Widnes	10-10

TODAY'S NUMBER

80

The number of seconds' duration of the sumo bout between grand champion Takanohana and Kotonishiki in Osaka yesterday. Bouts usually last 5 to 10 seconds.

OUTSIDE EDGE

Man-marked by an anorak

ARE YOU like me? Hate blank Saturdays? Those awful barren weekends when your team's no longer in the Cup. Or the ones they've taken to introducing prior to midweek internationals. Horrendous, aren't they?

Some say it provides the perfect opportunity to support your local non-League side. And, I dare say, a totally genuine football supporter would do just that. Enter into the spirit of footy and so on.

Me?

Well, to be quite honest, I can't be arsed.

Don't get me wrong. I have tried it. The problem is, it's tended to backfire. True, there can be distinct compensations. The reduced chances of a coronary in the absence of Liverpool's back five, to name just one. All in all, though, it's not the same. You just can't get as involved as when it's your own lot.

I liken it to those tedious school Christmas plays in which your friends' kids are involved. You know the sort. You pretend you're having a whale of a time, when all you really want is get to the pub or go home and see the smiling Chris Tarrant roasting his contestants on the spit.

Or perhaps even watch the entire 10 seconds of Stig Bjornebye's Greatest Crosses video. But no. You're stuck with it whether you like it or not. Feigned enthusiasm or a good kicking from the missus. Either way, you know you're cornered.

"Oh aye, Yeah, thanks for inviting us. Loved every second. The kids were brilliant. So natural."

"Best bit? Phew, you've got me there. Difficult one. I suppose when your Enya dropped the baby Jesus on his head. Yeah, I enjoyed that. Kids, eh? Who'd have them?"

"In fact, it's a pity we can't see the whole thing again, you know... We can? Tomorrow night?"

"Er... actually... er... isn't that insurance guy coming to-morrow night, pet?"

Mind you, boredom and indifference aren't the only reasons for not going to watch non-League football. I mean, when you do go, you invariably end up next to the real amateur football nut.

You must have survived more pigeon attacks than Sammy Nelson's column. The muffer that first saw action in the Crimea. The blotchy fawn gabardine that could find its way home on its own.

This guy has not watched a top flight game since Alf Common's £1,000 transfer in 1905. What's more, from the smell coming from his coat, the cheese sandwich he took with him that day is still in his pocket. Despite it all, though, this fellow recognises a soft target when he sees one.

"Haven't seen you here before."

"Nah."

"Liverpool's game off, then?"

"Yep."

"Can't stand those big jessies, you know. Now those fellas here are real foot-ballers. Love the game. Play for huttons, they do."

And you can't get away from him, no matter how hard you try. You walk right round the pitch and he's with you all the way. Babbling down your ear. It's like Nobby Stiles marking Eusebio at Wembley. Before long people start noticing. Even the players and the ref are getting suspicious.

It's at that point you realise your decision to wear your full length Ron Atkinson mac was a big mistake. Clearly it gives off the wrong vibes. Especially next to his. These days, you see, non-League footy is strictly for anoraks only.

ALAN EDGE

WIN

VIP TICKETS TO THE
AXA SPONSORED F.A.CUP
SEMI-FINALS

Over the last four months, leading football writers and broadcasters have been voting for their all time FA Cup greats. Now all the votes are in. The Independents can exclusively reveal the twelve winners of the AXA FA Cup Legend Awards. They are:

Jim Montgomery (Sunderland 1973)	Sunderland (1973)
Silly Winge (Wolves 1949)	Wolves (1949)
Alan Hansen (Liverpool 1966,88,89)	Liverpool (1966,88,89)
Danny Blanchflower (Spurs 1961,62)	Spurs (1961,62)
Dave Mackay (Blackpool 1946,51,53)	Blackpool (1946,51,53)
Liam Brady (Aston 1978,79,80)	Aston (1978,79,80)
Eric Cantona (Man Utd 1994,96)	Man Utd (1994,96)
Ricki Villa (Spurs 1981)	Spurs (1981)
Ron Rush (Liverpool 1966,89,92)	Liverpool (1966,89,92)
Stan Mortensen (Blackpool 1949,51,53)	Blackpool (1949,51,53)

Manager: Bob Stokoe (Sunderland 1973)

All you have to do to win the tickets to one of the FA Cup semi-finals is to look at the above AXA Legends XI and select the three players that you think received the most votes from the panel. Phone the number below and leave the names together with your name, full address and daytime telephone number on the line. The first two correct entries randomly selected will win a pair of tickets to one of the AXA sponsored FA Cup Semi-Finals, including travel and overnight accommodation if required.

CALL 0906 470 0438

Callers will be asked to pay a charge of 10p per minute plus a 10p connection charge. Lines will be open from 10am to 10pm on Monday 15th March 1999. The first two correct entries randomly selected will win a pair of tickets to one of the AXA sponsored FA Cup Semi-Finals, including travel and overnight accommodation if required.

Cheltenham Festival: The Champion Hurdle favourite is being spoken of in the same breath as legends of the turf

Can Istabraq leap to greatness?

JUST AS each generation grows up with its own fashions, so too does each new brood of punters cherish the horses of its youth. Whether they were winkle-pickers, kaffians or safety pins, everyone likes to think that the champions of their own golden age were the finest of them all.

It is why the windows will steam up in bars across Cheltenham this evening, whenever someone dares to suggest that Istabraq could be the greatest horse ever to jump a timber hurdle. The real old-timers will sit up straight and remember Hatton's Grace and Sir Ken, who both won three Champion Hurdles in succession in the 1950s. At the next table, the post-war baby boomers may put the case for Persian War, another triple-champion from the late 1960s.

But it is the forty-somethings who will argue most fiercely, and insist that the hurdlers of the 1970s have never been surpassed before or since. Even punters too young to have backed them will know the names and the stories - Night Nurse, Monksfield and Sea Pigeon, dual champions all, and almost contemporaries. Between 1976 and 1981, no other horse could get near them at Cheltenham, and of the champions since, to most punters' minds, only Sea Pigeon might have fared any better.

Until now. Twelve months ago, the cheers for Istabraq started when he was still a speck at the top of the distant hill, so easily was he cantering away from his Champion Hurdle field. He is a very short price not simply to win tomorrow's 70th running of the hurdling championship, but to do so by at least seven lengths. He will (probably) become the first dual winner of the Champion Hurdle since Sea Pigeon, who won three between 1985 and 1987.

Finding a place for Istabraq among the greats of earlier eras depends, inevitably, on your point of view. But if there is one person who has had a very good look at most of the leading hurdlers of the last 25 years, it is Jonjo O'Neill, who won a Champion Hurdle on Sea Pigeon, beating Monksfield into second, and also rode Night Nurse on several occasions. His thoughts may come as a shock to the tap-room debating society.

"In my honest opinion, Sea Pigeon was the best of them [in the 1970s], because he had so much speed," O'Neill said yesterday. "He won two Champion Hurdles, he should have won three and possibly could have had four."

"But I think Istabraq is a bit special. He is as good, if not better, and I can see anything else winning on Tuesday."

GREG WOOD

That said, O'Neill also feels that "if Sea Pigeon was around now, he'd win six Champion Hurdles, because they don't go up the hill twice [the route of the race has changed] and the ground is always good [due to vastly improved drainage]. He'd have the ideal conditions. He was just born 20 years too early, and so was I."

But such is his respect for Istabraq that if there were a championship in the Twilight Zone with both horses entered and in their prime, and O'Neill had his pick, you suspect he might opt for the current champion.

"In one sense Istabraq is the better horse because you can ride him any way," he said. "You can make the running if you want to, or drop him out last, because he's got such a good attitude. Sea Pigeon had to be ridden to suit him. If you arrived too soon, or the race wasn't run at a proper gallop, you were in trouble. He should definitely have won the first Champion Hurdle he ran in, but I got there too soon on him. When you've got a horse that's adaptable, you've got the real McCoy."

If O'Neill is a little partial in his opinion of Sea Pigeon, few would blame him. Supporters of Night Nurse, however, will point out that his best Timeform rating, 182, is the highest ever awarded to a hurdler. He also recorded 20 victories in the space of just two championship seasons, in 1976 and 1977. These are difficult numbers to argue with, and it is also worth remembering that Night Nurse was top-class over fences too, finishing second to Little Owl in the 1981 Gold Cup and winning valuable handicaps including the Mandarin Chase.

The great unknown, of course, is what Istabraq may yet achieve. His winning distance last year, 12 lengths, equalled the record for the race, and it will be no surprise if he claims it for himself tomorrow. His most recent Timeform rating, following the 14th victory of his 16-race career, was 172, just 10lb shy of Night Nurse himself.

Both targets will be within sight if Istabraq produces the performance which his supporters have come to expect. And even if he does not quite mark himself down as the pre-eminent hurdler of the century, the latest generation of punters will surely have a champion whose honour will be defended in the pubs of Cheltenham well into the new millennium.



Istabraq in full flight is one of the most glorious sights in jump racing and he is odds-on favourite to win a second successive Champion Hurdle tomorrow

Pat Healy

WHAT MAKES ISTABRAQ A CHAMPION

John Gosden, Istabraq's first trainer who guided his career as a racehorse on the flat, feels that one factor above all has helped Istabraq to realise his potential. "He wasn't overused as a young horse," Gosden says, "and that was critical to his development. He has been able to improve with age, he wasn't used up early on."

By the start of his four-year-old season, Istabraq had shown plenty of ability in staying races but his owner's policy was to send any horses which were unlikely to be Group class to the sales. "We wanted to make sure that he went to the right home, because we knew he had a lot of development in him. Timmy Hyde bought him for JP McManus and the rest, as they say, is history."

With his flat pedigree - his dam produced the Derby winner Secret - Istabraq is not a big horse, but he is well-proportioned. Good CONFORMATION is an aid to soundness, and he has rarely been troubled by the niggling injuries, for instance to the back and legs, which plague many jumping horses.

POWERFUL HOCKS provide the impetus for quick, clean jumping throughout a race. Although he was thrice, Istabraq flew the eighth and final flight in last year's Champion Hurdle as cleanly as he had the first.

As a two-year-old, Istabraq had problems with his JOINTS, from which he was given time to recover. He was allowed to mature at his own speed and when he graduated to hurdling, still had plenty of racing left in him.

The hardest part of a horse to train is often their BRAIN, but Istabraq has a willing, no-nonsense attitude to hard work. "I think gelding helped with that," John Gosden says. "He used to be a bit of a worrier, but there's no doubt gelded horses stay very true and genuine to the game."

HEART and LUNGS which are his engine and petrol tank respectively. They need to be unusually good at supplying oxygen to hard-working muscles.

THE WEEK AHEAD: SPORT ON TELEVISION

TODAY

14.45-15.35 BBC2 Match of the Day
15.40-16.00 Sky Sports 1 Live Cricket: India v Australia (continued)
16.05-16.30 Sky Sports 1 FA Cup: Arsenal v Manchester United (kick-off 15.30)
16.35-17.00 Sky Sports 1 FA Cup: Arsenal v Manchester United (kick-off 15.30)
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23.05-23.30 Sky Sports 1 FA Cup: Arsenal v Manchester United (kick-off 15.30)
23.35-24.00 Sky Sports 1 FA Cup: Arsenal v Manchester United (kick-off 15.30)

TUESDAY

13.30-14.00 Sky Sports 1 Live Cricket: India v Australia (continued)
14.05-14.30 Sky Sports 1 FA Cup: Arsenal v Manchester United (kick-off 13.30)
14.35-15.00 Sky Sports 1 FA Cup: Arsenal v Manchester United (kick-off 13.30)
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WEDNESDAY

13.30-14.00 Sky Sports 1 Live Cricket: India v Australia (continued)
14.05-14.30 Sky Sports 1 FA Cup: Arsenal v Manchester United (kick-off 13.30)
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THURSDAY

13.30-14.00 Sky Sports 1 Live Cricket: India v Australia (continued)
14.05-14.30 Sky Sports 1 FA Cup: Arsenal v Manchester United (kick-off 13.30)
14.35-15.00 Sky Sports 1 FA Cup: Arsenal v Manchester United (kick-off 13.30)
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FRIDAY

13.30-14.00 Sky Sports 1 Live Cricket: India v Australia (continued)
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SATURDAY

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23.35-24.00 Sky Sports 1 FA Cup: Arsenal v Manchester United (kick-off 13.30)

SUNDAY

13.30-14.00 Sky Sports 1 Live Cricket: India v Australia (continued)
14.05-14.30 Sky Sports 1 FA Cup: Arsenal v Manchester United (kick-off 13.30)
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THE WEEK AHEAD: MAIN EVENTS

TUESDAY

RACING: The Cheltenham Festival gets underway with the Champion Hurdle the centrepiece of the first day at Prestbury Park, where the Guinness and champagne flow as the punters and the public alike watch the greatest horses of the flat and the jump race world. The Irish have the odds-on favourite, Istabraq, who won last year's Champion Hurdle as cleanly as he had the first.

WEDNESDAY

RACING: International events, Manchester United and Arsenal are the main attractions. The Irish have the odds-on favourite, Istabraq, who won last year's Champion Hurdle as cleanly as he had the first.

THURSDAY

RACING: The Cheltenham Festival continues with the Gold Cup the centrepiece of the second day at Prestbury Park, where the Guinness and champagne flow as the punters and the public alike watch the greatest horses of the flat and the jump race world.

FRIDAY

RACING: The Cheltenham Festival concludes with the National Hunt Cup the centrepiece of the third day at Prestbury Park, where the Guinness and champagne flow as the punters and the public alike watch the greatest horses of the flat and the jump race world.

SATURDAY

RACING: The Cheltenham Festival concludes with the National Hunt Cup the centrepiece of the third day at Prestbury Park, where the Guinness and champagne flow as the punters and the public alike watch the greatest horses of the flat and the jump race world.

SUNDAY

RACING: The Cheltenham Festival concludes with the National Hunt Cup the centrepiece of the third day at Prestbury Park, where the Guinness and champagne flow as the punters and the public alike watch the greatest horses of the flat and the jump race world.

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THE WEEK AHEAD: FIXTURES

TODAY

RACING: (National Hunt unless stated):
13.30-14.00 Sky Sports 1 Live Cricket: India v Australia (continued)
14.05-14.30 Sky Sports 1 FA Cup: Arsenal v Manchester United (kick-off 13.30)
14.35-15.00 Sky Sports 1 FA Cup: Arsenal v Manchester United (kick-off 13.30)
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TOMORROW

FOOTBALL (7.45 unless stated):
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legends of the turf
ness?

Football's route to riches

TOMORROW, AT 10.30pm on BBC1, Alan Hansen presents a programme called *The Football Millionaires*, in which he interviews, among others, David Beckham, Michael Owen, Alan Shearer, Jamie Redknapp and Dwight Yorke. Rather unattractively, most of them are at pains to explain that being a football superstar on £20,000 or so a week is not all it's cracked up to be, what with the unwanted attentions of the tabloids and all those flipping autographs to sign. Only Shearer is honest enough to admit that there has never been, nor possibly will ever be, a better time to be a top professional footballer.

The fundamental problem with such programmes is that most footballers are worth listening to only when they have a ball at their feet, especially David Beckham, who is Arthur Rubinstein with his boots on, and Arthur Mullard with them off. Nevertheless, Beckham makes perhaps the most interesting contribution to *The Football Millionaires*, recalling that, following that sending-off, the most supportive of his colleagues was Tony Adams. As the post-match gloom descended, Adams sat next to him outside the England dressing-room (the implication being that he was not welcome inside the dressing-room) offering consolation. The born-again Christian Glenn Hoddie, by contrast, cut him dead.

One conspicuous absentee from the programme is Steve McNamara, who is not only more articulate than most players, but will soon be one of the richest. It is said that Real Madrid are to pay him £65,000 a week, and I hope that the Liverpool crowd will wish him well. At the same time, I can't help wondering what the family of Neil Franklin must feel about such stratospheric salaries.

Franklin - who died two years ago aged 74 - played 27 consecutive games at the heart of the England defence, and was, in the estimation of Sir Tom Finney, "the best centre-half I ever played with or against." But Franklin was dissatisfied with his earning power. "I remember standing on the pitch with him in 1948, before England played Scotland at Hampden Park in front of a crowd of 130,000," Sir Tom told me recently. "There was a band marching up and down with bagpipes, and Neil said to me, 'there's something wrong here, Tom. These bug-

BRIAN VINER
I can't help wondering what the family of Neil Franklin must feel about today's salaries

gers are being paid more than we are."

In the spring of 1950 - to the surprise of his club Stoke City, who had repeatedly refused his request for a transfer - Franklin left to play for the Santa Fe club in Bogota. Colombian clubs were free to sign foreign players in breach of contract because they were not affiliated to Fifa, and offered the kind of money that quite understandably seduced players on a maximum wage of £20 a week.

But Franklin soon found that Bogota was definitely not to be confused with El Dorado. He never saw the pot of gold he'd been promised, and his pregnant wife and six-year-old son found it hard to settle there. Within a few months he returned to England, tail between his formidable legs, and found himself both snubbed by his erstwhile colleagues and vilified by the authorities. Despite his proven ability, none of the top clubs wanted him. Tom Finney tried to persuade the Preston North End manager, Cliff Britten, to sign him. "I said, 'he's a marvellous player, he'd walk into any side.' But Preston wouldn't have him, and he never played for England again. Eventually he ended up at Hull City, who were in the Second Division."

Speaking of the Second Division in bygone years, last week I referred to Sunderland's giant-killing exploits in the 1973 FA Cup, and referred to their 2-1 victory over Arsenal in the semi-final at Villa Park. I was wrong. Jim Dixon writes from South Gosforth to say that he found my column slightly disconcerting. "Having supported Sunderland since 1959 through the downs and downs, I find that I was



Steve McNamara's Real Madrid contract is said to be worth £65,000 a week. Neil Franklin (right) went to Colombia to escape the English maximum wage of £20 per week. *The Mirror/Reuters*



QUESTIONNAIRE

DENNIS WISE, FOOTBALLER

Is Robbie Williams the new Tom Jones? There's only one Tom Jones. There's only one Robbie Williams.

What is your dream holiday destination? It was Bermuda. Now I've been. And it still is.

When was the last time you took the tube? How was the service? This year. Service was good.

What's the best foreign phrase you've picked up in the Chelsea dressing-room? Quite a few... but none suitable for a family newspaper.

Is Monica Lewinsky a sex symbol? If not, who is? No. All the supermodels are sexy.

What has been the best day of your footballing life so far? No one day. All of last season and, hopefully, when we win a trophy this year.

SPORTING VERNACULAR

5. HANDICAP

WHEN THE County Hurdle rounds off Cheltenham on Thursday, the handicapper's work will be done. "Handicap" originally referred to a gambling game: two parties put up a possession (a watch, say) against the other. An umpire adjudicated on the relative values while the parties put their hands in a hat (handicap). At the verdict the players withdrew their hand with a different sign (of the paper-stone-scissors game) according to whether they wanted to proceed or not. If they agreed, the umpire took the money; if not, whoever voted to proceed won the cash. In the 18th century, when an umpire ruled on a weight disadvantage for a superior horse, owners would perform the same manoeuvre to signify agreement.

Later, the term was extended to any contest in which advantages are evened out, and came to apply to the disadvantage itself - acquiring by extension its non-sporting sense.

CHRIS MAUME

SPORT ON THE INTERNET

WILL APPEAR TOMORROW



All roads still lead to Rome. They just seem a little shorter.

It's 1,250 miles from London to Rome. But just try convincing the owner of a new Vauxhall Vectra of that fact, and he'll swear it's considerably less. That's because we've implemented 2,500 improvements in order to make driving one as effortless as possible.

First we looked at the chassis. By increasing the diameter of the anti-roll bars, retuning the dampers and reducing the rear spring rate, we improved the handling

dramatically while also-and this is the really clever part-enhancing comfort.

Next we turned to the steering, making it more precise and responsive. The brakes, too, were upgraded with the inclusion of larger discs and new generation ABS.

Both our new 1.8 and redesigned 2.0 litre engines have been engineered to make them as quiet as possible. (Engine noise is, after all, one of the main contributing factors to

driver fatigue.) Inside you'll find a whole host of other refinements too. There's air conditioning (or electronic climate control if you'd prefer) lumbar support and steering wheel mounted controls.

So if you'd like to discover exactly how the new Vectra has been re-engineered for maximum comfort and effortless driving, simply call 0345 400 800 and ask for a launch pack. It doesn't come any more effortless than that.

THE NEW VECTRA. The end of long journeys.



Lewis lets the prize escape

Lennox Lewis raises an arm in short-lived triumph at the end of his fight with Evander Holyfield *Reuters*

A huge chant from the British fans carried their man into the final round, but Lewis seemed to feel that he had already done enough, and the pro-active fighter of the early rounds had all but disappeared. Only in response to Hotelyd's closing assault did he shake off this circumspection and, with eight seconds left on the clock, throw a short, straight, ferociously hard right hand which travelled no more than 18 inches, landing between Hotelyd's eyes and buckling the American's knees.

This was the blow which had it been ventured earlier in the fight, could have brought a very different outcome. Lewis's failure to do so is a tribute to the resolve of Hotelyd - older, shorter, lighter, less motivated by a fighter from the prize, but a fighter from head to toe. Lennox Lewis made a lot of converts on Saturday night. He did enough to deserve victory. But when all is said and done he could not make Evander Holyfield desperate to lose.

KEN JONES IN NEW YORK

Other remarks, slanderous in implication, cannot be repeated on these pages. Incompetence is another matter. "I

don't care who the winner was," Williams said in defence of her verdict. "I scored by the blows that connected." On that basis — 348 to 137 — Lewis elated it. Lewis had himself to blame for allowing the situation to develop. As in defences of the WBC belt against Henry Akintola and Oliver McCaull, he underlame his superiority, boxing so cautiously in the latter part of the contest that even Christodoulos gave Holyfield four of the last five rounds.

In truth, the first contest for the undisputed heavyweight title to be held at Madison Square Garden since the epic battle between Muhammad Ali and Joe Frazier in March 1971 was poor by comparison, so lacking in incident during the later rounds that silence descended upon the audience. Controversy apart, not one for his memory.

HOW THE JUDGES SCORED THEM

Larry O'Connell
(Britain)
Appointed by WBC

Round	Holyfield	Lewis
1	9	10
2	9	10
3	10	9
4	9	10
5	9	10
6	10	9
7	10	9
8	10	9
9	10	9
10	10	10
11	10	9
12	9	10
Total	115	115

Stanley Christodoulou
(South Africa)
Appointed by WBA

Round	Holyfield	Lewis
1	9	10
2	9	10
3	10	9
4	9	10
5	9	10
6	9	10
7	10	9
8	10	9
9	10	9
10	10	9
11	10	10
12	9	10
Total	113	116

THE FIGHT

Lennox Lewis: When did Evander hit me with a jab? I was chasing him with jabs all night. I felt I was in control the whole fight. What can I say? **Larry O'Connell** (British judge who scored the fight a draw): I know I'll get some stick, but it's my decision to call the fight as I see it. When I score each round, I never know what the overall score is going to be. **Frank Maloney** (Lewis's manager): Emotions were running high. It's the first time Lennox has shown any emotions. The world knows who is the undisputed champion. Even Steve Wonder could have seen that Lennox won ... I has tarnished the image of the sport. If Larry

O'Connell is put on one of my shows by the British Board of Control I will hand back my promoter's licence... Ten years of hard work, we finally got the fight and we got robbed.

Rick Telander (Chicago Sun-Times): The robbery was so stunning that you almost had to enjoy it. Like watching a three-card monte scam occur in broad daylight in Times Square, in slow motion with a captive audience... Welcome to New York City, and Boxing USA, where anything is possible.

Mickey Vann (British referee): Women are not fight people. There are two sports where women should not be allowed

- rugby and boxing. Nobody knew the judge - I think she was overawed.
Don King (fight promoter): What you do when you have a dispute is to resolve it. Let's do it again, let's make it happen. The question still hovers over us: Who is the best?
Panos Eliades (Lewis' promoter): Does Evander want to fight Lennox again? I'd say no. He was toying with him in there.
Roy Jones (WBA and WBC title-heavyweight champion): I feel ashamed we treated Lennox Lewis the way we did. I'm upset. Lennox did not lose it, and it wasn't a draw.
Lou Di Bell (senior vice president of cable network Home

Box Office: It stunk. The scoring of the IBF judge was simply not possible. She scored Lewis' most decisive round the fifth, to Holyfield. This makes this great sport suffer. Emanuel Steward (Lewis' trainer): I love Holyfield three rounds. He looked like Lemmon's sparring partner, but this sparring partner was paid \$1m. Frank Bruno (former boxer): Lennox made the fight look easy. He did a wicked, wicked, number on Holyfield. As God is my witness, he was the winner. Chris Eubank (boxer and pundit): It's a travesty of justice. I will say it publicly: this has messed up my four days in New York.

Frank Warren (promoter and Leyton Orient chairman): I could have been watching Leyton Orient WSE instead of this. **Timothy W Smith (New York Times):** It wasn't Ali-Frazier L. It was more like a Brinks truck heist ... It is the kind of decision that will hurt boxing as much as Mike Tyson biting Holyfield's ears in 1997. **Wallace Matthews (New York Post):** The fight plan may have been drawn up by the Lord, but the scorecards bore the mark of the devil ... It was a night in which the glory and honor of boxing was supposed to return to its former home; instead the stink returned to the air over the ring.

SPORTING DIGEST

ATHLETICS

[illegible]

BASKETBALL

[illegible]

175, J M Vaughan 87; A Symonds 4-90) and 254 for 9 (D S Lehmann 78no, O A Fitzgerald 57; P W Jackson 4-88). March

(P) = *Phalaena* (Macpherson); Victoria 263 (P)
 (P) = *Phalaena* (Macpherson); Victoria 263 (P)
 276 for 100 (C) U.L. Banger 125m; 63 (P)
 (H) Saker 500; Western Australia 259 (P)
 276 for 100 (C) U.L. Banger 125m; 63 (P)
 (H) Saker 500; Western Australia 259 (P)
 276 for 100 (C) U.L. Banger 125m; 63 (P)

CYCLING

TIRORENO-ADRIATICO RACE (P)
 276 for 100 (C) U.L. Banger 125m; 63 (P)
 (H) Saker 500; Western Australia 259 (P)
 276 for 100 (C) U.L. Banger 125m; 63 (P)

GOLF

TIRORENO-ADRIATICO RACE (P)
 276 for 100 (C) U.L. Banger 125m; 63 (P)
 (H) Saker 500; Western Australia 259 (P)
 276 for 100 (C) U.L. Banger 125m; 63 (P)

LEADING EUROPEAN RYDER CUP STANDINGS (68 or 111 miles stated):
1 C. Montgomerie 5,890 pts; 2 M.A. Attwells

13	37.87	9	2.616	3	A55	A1	West	(G)
14	37.87	9	2.616	3	A55	A1	West	(G)
15	37.87	9	2.616	3	A55	A1	West	(G)
16	37.87	9	2.616	3	A55	A1	West	(G)
17	37.87	9	2.616	3	A55	A1	West	(G)
18	37.87	9	2.616	3	A55	A1	West	(G)
19	37.87	9	2.616	3	A55	A1	West	(G)
20	37.87	9	2.616	3	A55	A1	West	(G)
21	37.87	9	2.616	3	A55	A1	West	(G)
22	37.87	9	2.616	3	A55	A1	West	(G)
23	37.87	9	2.616	3	A55	A1	West	(G)
24	37.87	9	2.616	3	A55	A1	West	(G)
25	37.87	9	2.616	3	A55	A1	West	(G)
26	37.87	9	2.616	3	A55	A1	West	(G)
27	37.87	9	2.616	3	A55	A1	West	(G)
28	37.87	9	2.616	3	A55	A1	West	(G)
29	37.87	9	2.616	3	A55	A1	West	(G)
30	37.87	9	2.616	3	A55	A1	West	(G)
31	37.87	9	2.616	3	A55	A1	West	(G)
32	37.87	9	2.616	3	A55	A1	West	(G)
33	37.87	9	2.616	3	A55	A1	West	(G)
34	37.87	9	2.616	3	A55	A1	West	(G)
35	37.87	9	2.616	3	A55	A1	West	(G)
36	37.87	9	2.616	3	A55	A1	West	(G)
37	37.87	9	2.616	3	A55	A1	West	(G)
38	37.87	9	2.616	3	A55	A1	West	(G)
39	37.87	9	2.616	3	A55	A1	West	(G)
40	37.87	9	2.616	3	A55	A1	West	(G)
41	37.87	9	2.616	3	A55	A1	West	(G)
42	37.87	9	2.616	3	A55	A1	West	(G)
43	37.87	9	2.616	3	A55	A1	West	(G)
44	37.87	9	2.616	3	A55	A1	West	(G)
45	37.87	9	2.616	3	A55	A1	West	(G)
46	37.87	9	2.616	3	A55	A1	West	(G)
47	37.87	9	2.616	3	A55	A1	West	(G)
48	37.87	9	2.616	3	A55	A1	West	(G)
49	37.87	9	2.616	3	A55	A1	West	(G)
50	37.87	9	2.616	3	A55	A1	West	(G)
51	37.87	9	2.616	3	A55	A1	West	(G)
52	37.87	9	2.616	3	A55	A1	West	(G)
53	37.87	9	2.616	3	A55	A1	West	(G)
54	37.87	9	2.616	3	A55	A1	West	(G)
55	37.87	9	2.616	3	A55	A1	West	(G)
56	37.87	9	2.616	3	A55	A1	West	(G)
57	37.87	9	2.616	3	A55	A1	West	(G)
58	37.87	9	2.616	3	A55	A1	West	(G)
59	37.87	9	2.616	3	A55	A1	West	(G)
60	37.87	9	2.616	3	A55	A1	West	(G)
61	37.87	9	2.616	3	A55	A1	West	(G)
62	37.87	9	2.616	3	A55	A1	West	(G)
63	37.87	9	2.616	3	A55	A1	West	(G)
64								

Grimsby 3; Canterbury 2 Southgate 4;
Old Loughtonians 3 Reading 7; Ted-
dington 3 Hounslow 1, League pos-

Senior 1 Cannock (P18 34); 2
Dorchester (P18 35); 3
First Division: 1 Hull 1; Sutton 1; 2
Oxford 0; 3 Barford 0; 4 St. Doncaster
0; 5 St. Albans 0; 6
Oxford Hawks 0; 7 Hampton & West-
minster 1; 8 Indian Gymnasia 2; 9 Havant 1;
10 Brentley 0; 11 St. Albans 0; 12 Loughborough
0; 13 St. Albans 0; 14 St. Albans 0; 15
Stourport 3; 16 Sutton 5; 17 Lough-
borough 1; 18 Sutton (P18, P19 44); 19
St. Albans 0; 20
SOUTH PRINCE High Wycombe 1;
Farnham 2; 2 Chandler 1; 3 Farnham
1; 4 Farnham 1; 5 Farnham 1; 6 Farnham
(P19-33); 7 Old Cranborne (P19-30);
8 Farnham 1; 9 Farnham 1; 10 Farnham 1;
11 Hampton-in-Arden 1; 12 Cowen-
ry & North Warwick 3; 13 Knares 8; 14
Salisbury 1; 15 Oxford & West Warwick 3; 16
St. Albans 0; 17 St. Albans 0; 18
St. Albans 0; 19 Epsom (P21, P40);
20 St. Albans 0; 21 Northampton 2;
22 Northampton 2; 23 Northampton 2;
24 Northampton 2;
PRESIDENT HOLIDAYS Blue 1; Presi-
dent 1; Bedford Town 1; 2 Blue 2; 3 Colchester
0; 4 Blue 1; 5 Blue 1; 6 Blue 1; 7
Bedford City 1; 8 Blue 1; 9 Cambridge Uni-
versity 1; 10 Blue 1; 11 Blue 1; 12
Blue 1; 13 Peterborough Town (P19,
P20 19); 14 Blue 1; 15 (P19-41); 16 Cam-
bridge University 1;
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Bournemouth

WOMEN'S SOUTH Division One: Hendon 1 Maidenhead 4; Horsham 3 Winchester 0; Southampton 3 Rye

[illegible]

(1:03.79, 1:00.61): S H Schilchegger
(Aut) 2:04.44 (1:04.16, 1:00.28): A S
Eberhartel (Aut) 2:04.51 (1:04.23,

[illegible]

b1 S Jacemno1 (Fr) 9-2 9-1 9-0: V
Bowright (Eng) bt D Cruickshank (Scol
9-3 9-2 9-1: D Harris (Aus) b1 A Monr.

[illegible]

ONEX ALL ENGLAND CHAMPIONSHIPS (National Indoor Arena, Birmingham)

[illegible]

Uzbek, holder) be O Garcia-Cano (Sp)
23.

CRICKET

Leishire members at the annual meeting in Huddersfield on Saturday have voted in favour of taking county Championship games back to Sheffield and Hargreave from next year. The motion urges the committee to reinstate the two grounds and this will now be discussed by the general committee. Supporters of the motion claim that the club now has to abide by the members' wishes.

SHEFFIELD SHIELD (final day of play) (Hobart) Testmatch 278 (J Coe 128) and 246 for 9 (J Coe 70; R Sae 5-53); New Zealand 208 for 6 (M G Brown 33, S Lee 50), 233 drawn. (Aldershot) Queensland 239 (M L Hayden 106, P Wilson 5-68) and 448 for 5 (J Coe 108 for 4) and 246 (M G Brown 33, S Lee 50). (Aldershot) New Zealand 208 (M L Hayden 61, M L Warner 208) and M L Hayden 61 (M L Warner 208). (Aldershot) South Australia 345 (D S Lehmann

8 69 69. K Tomerl (Jpan) 88 68 70 71:
273 F Jacobson (Swe) 67 74 71 66. C Hain-
ne (US) 70 69 71 68. J Berendt (Arg) 71

[illegible]

M McKay 73 71 70, L Neumann (Swe) 72
72 70, 2155 Lowe 72 73 70, 216 L Davies

171 74 217 109 12 15 12 21 15
 Fairclough 72 75
 CRUISE KENYA OPEN (Austro!):
 1. Crawford 1st place (GB) or 1st place
 (Austro!); 286 M Laleber (NZ) 66 66
 41; 286 E Anderson (Swe) 58 61 61
 70; 286 S Daniels (USA) 62 62 62
 70; 286 15 12 64 70; 10 H Cro 15 61
 68 68 68; 272 R Bland 75 66 65; 272
 65 Jones 71 68 65 65; D Park 74 66 65
 65; 1 Pymon 65 68 68 71; 274 F Cui-
 ling (NZ) 70 70 66 67; 1 Howerth 69
 68 68 68 68; 274 70 71 66 65;
 274 70 68 65 67; 275 M Eksson
 68 68 70 65 70; 5 Hurd 69 69 69 68;
 6 Petrovich (1) 69 66 61 69; 6 Rojas
 69 71 68 67 69.

HOCKEY
 1980 TEST (Cape Town, SA): South
 Africa 3 Australia 6 (Australia win series
 2-1).
 1st Premier Bournville 6 Guildford 2;
 2nd Brooklands 2 Besson 5; Cannock 13 East

Exmouth 0; Porridgehead Firebrands 1
Bournemouth 1; Redlands 2 Exeter 1: S1

WOMEN'S EAST PREMIER: Ashford 2; Ipswich 4; Sheehans 2; Dereham 3; **Hartismans Magpies** (P14, P15, P16, P17, P18, P19, P20, P21, P22, P23, P24, P25, P26, P27, P28, P29, P30, P31, P32, P33, P34, P35, P36); **Sevens** (14-27); 3 Ipswich 14; 2 Severn 14.

WOMEN'S MIDLAND PREMIER: Beiper 1; Orono Truggess 1; Crimmon Rovers 1; Kettering 3; Loughborough Soldiers 1; Bedford 2; Luton 2; North Staffs 1. **Standings:** Bedford (P13, P34); 1. Loughborough Soldiers (15-27); 2. Crimmon Rovers (15-26); 3. Kettering (11-25).

Manufacturers: 1 Renault 16; 2 Volkswagen 12; 3 Vauxhall 9; 4 Peugeot 7.

SKIING

ALPINE WORLD CUP FINALS (Sterne Newsday, Sp)

Men's slalom: 1 **T. Stamstad** (Nor) 1:41.1min 50.4+sec
 54.6-4 first leg, 55.6-6 second leg; 2 **K. Aamodt** (Nor) 1:50.67 (54.44, 56.23);
 3 **C. Gabel** (Sov) 1:51.12 (53.80, 57.32); 4 **O. Pluschy** (Austria) 1:51.65
 54.61, 57.04; 5 **C. Mayer** (Austria) 1:52.64
 56.20, 56.44; 6 **F. Tescan** (Czech) 1:52.65
 54.41, 57.21; 7 **D. C. Furusheth** (Nor) 1:52.65
 56.52, 56.13; 8 **M. Burke** (Ire) 1:53.04
 55.81, 57.23; 9 **S. Amnez** (Fin) 1:53.16
 56.49, 56.67; 10 **F. C. Jagge** (Nor) 1:53.62 (56.56, 57.06). **Final**
World Cup slalom standings: 1 **T. Stamstad**
 (Nor) 1,500 points; 2 **J. Koir** (Fin) 1,400
 (1,000); 3 **F. C. Jagge** (Nor) 386;
 4 **P. Bourgeois** (Can), **K. Aamodt** (Nor)
 363.

Women's slalom: 1 **M. Von Grunewald**
 (Switz) 2:10.40 53 sec (1:03.40,
 1:07.00); 2 **S. Locher** (Switz) 2:04.40

SPEED SKATING

WORLD SINGLE DISTANCE CHAMPIONSHIPS (Heerenveen, Neth):
 Men: 500m: 1 H Shimizu (Japan)
 750: 69.69sec (35.43 first run, 35.26 sec
 second run); 2 S Watanabe (Neth) (55.61,
 35.77); 3 J J Leeuwenga (Neth) 71.930
 1000: 1.41.5sec; 2 H Shimizu (Japan)
 1500: 2.10.75sec; 3 J J Leeuwenga (Neth)
 10.17n, 15.00n; 1 P Posma (Neth) 17m
 17.22sec; 2 A Sondral (Nor) 1:46.25; 5
 S Rituma (Neth) 1:49.28; Women:
 500m: 1 M Timmer (Neth) 1:16.21;
 1.07.75; 2 J J Leeuwenga (Neth) 1:16.21;
 3 S Lemstra (Neth) 1:16.21;
 1000: 2.36.17sec; 1.57m; 1.57m
 1500: 4.01.59sec; 2 S Niemann
 (Ger) 1:59.43; 5 T de Jong (Neth)
 1:59.17.

SQUASH

TOULOUSE CENTRAL WOMEN'S
 Open: First round: 7 Malik (Mor) bt R
 Laibali (Eng) 9-1 9-1; 9-1; C Casters (Fr)

18-21 21-19 21-16 21-10 Semi-finals:
Schopp bt Steff 21-17 10-21 21-19

CHAMPIONS
NEWSWEEK THANNIPS CUP (Indo-
 China Wets), CA West's Quarter-finals:
 Moya (Sp) beat K Kueroa (Philippines) 6-4 6-4;
 Woodruff (US) beat J Herman (GB) 6-1
 6-8 7-5; G Kuerten (Bel) beat R K Walcott
 (Indo) 6-4 6-4; M Philipras (Aus) beat
 J Martin (US) 3-6 7-5 6-1. Semi-finals:
 Moya (Sp) beat K Kueroa (Philippines) 6-1;
 Philipras (Aus) beat Woodruff 6-1 6-2.

NEVERT CUP (Indian Wets), CA
 West's singles final: S Williams (US)
 6-1 6-5 5-7 6-2 1-6; J Martin (US) 6-1 6-2.

DAVINS CUP: Asia-Oceania Zone
 Round Three: Malaysia beat Hong Kong
 3-1; 1. Tajikistan beat Pacific Oceania 3-0;
 2. Kazakhstan 3-0; 3. Spain 1-6; 4. Hong
 Kong are promoted to Group Two.
 Group Arabia and Bahrain relegated to
 the Group Four.

SPORT

Paul pair weave silky magic

WHEN BRADFORD took the bold and imaginative step this winter of uniting the Paul brothers, the hope was that there would be afternoons like this, when their combined rugby brilliance would weave unforgettable magic.

What could not have been predicted was that it would come so early in the season, against a side that had already shown some impressive form.

Although Tevita Valkona claimed four of Bradford's 10 tries, it was Mr and Mrs Paul's half-back sons, Henry and Robbie, who dominated yesterday's spectacular Silk Cut Challenge Cup quarter-final.

This was as far removed as it is possible to be from the plodding, predictable Bulls of last season, with their whole philosophy now geared to getting the best out of the free-wheeling talents they have available.

Unlike many one-sided contests, this never became boring, because it remained fascinating to see what they would get up to next.

"During that first half, I was jumping up and down like 10,000 people on the terraces at some of the tries we scored," said the Bradford coach, Matthew Elliott, and it takes a lot to make him gush like that.

Although Henry's goal-kicking was an optional extra in the context of this match, he got Bradford moving with an early penalty. Their own Australian second-rower, David Boyle, then dummied and barged his way over from acting half, an area in which Warrington found insoluble problems.

Henry's inside ball to Valkona produced the second try for Mike Forshaw and before Warrington had time to catch their breath he then released Scott Naylor.

When James Lowes linked with Robbie Paul, who took the return pass from Michael Withers to complete an 80-yard try, Bradford were 22 points ahead in less than even time and the outcome was beyond doubt.

RUGBY LEAGUE

BY DAVE HADFIELD

Bradford	52
Warrington	16

It sends out a warning to other clubs, including their semi-final opponents Leeds, that Bradford remained so eager to carry on the destruction.

Valkona went over for the first time before the break, rounding off a move involving both Pauls and Naylor. He was there again, feeding off Henry, five minutes into the second-half, before the try created by Robbie and Danny Peacock for Withers that was perhaps the most stunning of the lot.

Warrington had been shell-shocked from an early stage, so it was an unexpected interlude when they worked a neat blind-side move for Scott Wilson to score. Bradford's response was immediate: after it had taken a mass of Warrington tacklers to stop the rampaging Valkona, Stuart Spruce stroled over from dummy-half.

Nick Zisti's long break set up Valkona for his hat-trick, closely followed by Lowes getting the ball away perfectly to him for his fourth.

Elliott expressed some mild disappointment that, after the departure of Henry Paul for a well-earned rest, Warrington recorded dashing long range tries from Toa Koko-Love and Mark Forster.

It was not possible to be seriously critical of such a display, although Elliott wanted to spread the credit around.

"Everyone wants to talk about the Pauls, and I like to talk about them as well, but I thought the whole lot of them played so well today," he said.

Warrington would vouch for that.

Bradford: Spruce, Valkona, Naylor, Peacock, Withers, H Paul, R Paul, McDermott, Lowes, Wilson, Dwyer, Boyle, Forshaw, Substantina, Donaghy, Zisti, Anderson, McAvoy. Warrington: Penny, Roach, Koko-Love, Hunt, Forster, Wilson, Briers, Hilton, Farrar, Naylor, Gillies, McCurrie, Roger, Substantina, Hunt, Chambers, Rusty, Knott. Referee: J Connolly (Wigan).



Warrington's Ian Knott is brought down to earth by Bradford's Mike Forshaw (left) and David Boyle

Michael Steele/Empics

Big two are drawn to face each other

LEEDS WERE made to struggle by a determined Widnes side yesterday but they won through comfortably enough in the end, 46-10, and were then given the draw they did not want - against Bradford.

Their Challenge Cup semi-final will take place on Sunday, 28 March at Huddersfield's McAlpine Stadium, a venue where, in 1996 and 1997, Bradford knocked out Leeds at the same stage of the competition.

Matthew Elliott, the Bradford coach, accepted that the meeting would have made a dream final in the last rugby league match to be played at Wembley before the stadium is rebuilt.

"You would probably have to say Leeds are the toughest side left in the draw," he said. "Castleford and London were among the teams not really expected to get to Wembley but one of them will be there now."

SEMI-FINAL DRAW

Castleford v London
(Headingley, Sat 27 March)
Bradford v Leeds
(McAlpine Stadium, Sun 28 March)

It took Leeds some time to overcome their Northern Ford Premiership opponents - who took the lead with a penalty and it was 10-16 minutes into the second half - but they ran in five tries, including two for Andy Hay to complete his hat-trick.

in the final 15 minutes in the Auto Quest Stadium.

Castleford, West Yorkshire's third representative in the last four, will take on the London Broncos in the first semi-final at Headingley a day earlier.

Castleford reached their first semi-final for five years at the expense of Salford on Saturday while London reached their second successive semi-final after a comfortable 54-6 win over Whitehaven.

Martin Offiah crossed for a club-record five tries for the Broncos after the Premiership side took the lead but that was as good as it got for the visitors.

Two tries from Salford old-boy Darren Rogers helped Castleford to a 30-10 win in a game that was turned when the Salford captain David Hulme, was twice sent to the sin-bin for interference at the play-the-ball and the Tigers made their numerical advantage pay.

Serena breaks into big league

TENNIS

BY DERRICK WHYTE
in Indian Wells, California

SERENA WILLIAMS overcame a sore knee and Steffi Graf in the final of the Everet Cup at the weekend. Williams, the unseeded 17-year-old, beat the fifth-seeded former world No 1 6-3, 3-6, 7-5 in one hour 45 minutes.

"I'm so excited," said Williams, who bounced up and down after winning a 12-ball rally to claim her second career title. "I now know that I can win the big ones. I don't know how many matches I've won in a row but it's seven to win a Slam. I'm prepared to do that."

Graf was disappointed at her lack of risk-taking in a contest that saw her commit 26 unforced errors to 38 for Williams, while only hitting 11 winners.

"She was going for her shots more than I did," Graf said. "That was the difference... with taking risks, you put pressure on your opponent. Just putting balls in play is not enough."

The Spaniard Carlos Moya knocked Pete Sampras off the top of the world rankings when he beat the Brazilian Gustavo Kuerten 6-3, 1-6, 6-1 in Saturday's semi-finals of the Newsweek Champions Cup in Indian Wells.

"I hope I never wake up from this dream," Moya said after cutting a large cake shaped in a number one to mark his rise. In the final, the 23-year-old Moya was to play Mark Philippoussis last night, who beat American Chris Woodruff 6-1, 6-2 in his semi-final.

Moya was expecting to hear from the Spanish king, Juan Carlos. "He's going to be happy," said Moya. "He's the king of Spain, but, at least this week, I'm the king of the world."

HERE IS AN INFLATED SAFETY CLAIM.

THE NEW VOLVO S80 HAS AN INFLATABLE CURTAIN

THAT DROPS DOWN FROM THE ROOF ON IMPACT.

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THE NEW VOLVO S80. FROM £22,930
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JP 11/10/50

Sainsbury hits back

Sir: In January Friends of the Earth claimed that the Gatsby Charitable Foundation funds the development of GM food for J Sainsbury plc.

Wrong. Gatsby does not and has never funded development of GM Food for Sainsbury's.

On 22 January Friends of the Earth claimed I will be launching a video to convince shoppers that genetically modified food will do them no harm.

Wrong. A proposal was put forward in a report to Maff in 1998. I did not commission the report. I have never seen it, I have never discussed its contents and I understand Maff are not going to act on its recommendations.

On 25 January Friends of the Earth claimed that I was leading a plan to use supermarket loyalty cards to investigate the impacts of eating GM food.

Wrong. I have not been involved in any discussions along these lines.

On 19 February Friends of the Earth claimed that I used a visit to China and Korea to promote GM crops links between Britain, Korea and China and "visited various biotech bodies in China including the Institute of Plant Physiology in Shanghai".

Wrong again. The visit was undertaken to promote hi-lateral science links and covered a range of issues. I did not discuss UK GM food policy nor did I visit the Shanghai Institute.

In his letter to you (11 March) Charles Secrett, director of Friends of the Earth, claims I took part in a discussion on GM food policy when I chaired a public meeting on the consultation on the biosciences.

Wrong. The minutes make it quite clear that no discussions of GM food policy took place.

Most recently I have been accused of making a loan to Diatech after I became a Minister and Diatech had been put into the blind trust.

Wrong. It is a matter of record that I had agreed and was contractually bound to make the loan and that I had paid the money before I became a Minister. The recording in Companies House of a charge over assets owned by Diatech was done after I had become a Minister, but this was an action taken by the trustee of the blind trust. Again, Friends of the Earth did not wait to check the facts before calling for my resignation.

The simple fact is that I have not taken any decision where I could have a conflict of interest. I have not broken the Ministerial code in any way, and I have not failed to register any interest I should have done.

On a separate point, Fran Abrams reveals ("Lord Sainsbury will head team promoting biotechnology firms", 12 March) that I am leading a task force in the DTI looking at biotechnology clusters. This was a published commitment in the Competitiveness White Paper and was announced in the House in December. LORD SAINSBURY Minister for Science Department of Trade and Industry London SW1

Sir: The governments of this world must unite to put an end to the American-led onslaught of genetically modified organisms into our biosphere.

When the BSE crisis broke, the big guns in the UK beef industry, agrifish and government lined up to bully the British public, EU regulators and consumers worldwide. Fortunately they lost and the subsequent ban on British beef forced the British beef industry to get its house in order.

With GMOs we have an unregulated biotechnology industry backed by the most powerful country in the world bullying the rest of the world to consume food which could be unsafe to the environment as well as the consumer. Bullying and greed should not be tolerated. The

US might threaten a trade war over GMOs, but I doubt they'd send in the battleships over a product that no one wants.

If our government has its hands tied by some dubious trade agreements and can't (or won't) ban GMOs, then at least we should have proper labelling of our food. That way we can have the freedom to vote with our wallets on an issue that our government is too cowardly and feeble to tackle. RORY CARGILL, London SW11

Sir: Sales of GM foods in America are booming. Hardly surprising, when there is no labelling, no specific legislation to control them, and the biotech industry is effectively running the country.

Sales of organic foods in Britain are booming ("Consumers rushing for organic food", 8 March). Hardly surprising, since we are beginning to realise just how poor our food quality has become.

With a little help from their friends (in the Government), farmers in Britain could become part of the organic trade success story.

Why is our Government backing a foreign horse? JOANNA CLARKE Glasgow

Sir: Brian Marshall (letter, 12 March) perpetrates exactly the kind of whimsical thinking about foodstuffs that serves the interests of no-one but the pro-GM lobby. Horses, and other stock, are reluctant to eat fresh ragwort when other feed is available because the plant is extremely bitter tasting. Stock will happily eat wilted ragwort which, although less bitter, remains a serious toxic hazard. While cattle are reluctant to eat huttercrums, the plant is not toxic to them. KEITH BRAITHWAITE London SE13

Oskar ceremony

Sir: The joy of the money men at the departure of Oskar Lafontaine should disturb everyone else. It parallels the rapture with which World Bank emissaries greeted the resignation of the head of

Uganda's Central Bank because he opposed privatisation.

Oskar Lafontaine, for all his reported eccentricities, stood for some form of democratic control of the money system. Is Gore Vidal's view of America true for Europe, that the money men have bought politics, the media, and even the churches? It looks like it. KEVIN DONNELLY Christian Council for Monetary Justice Manchester

Sir: Some 290 million of the world's most prosperous peoples unite behind a single currency, the euro. It is triumphantly launched and steadily depreciates. Then one man resigns from the German government and the euro's comparative value surges upwards.

Can we now bury the ridiculous myth of the stable euro, please? MICHAEL J KNIGHT Langley, Berkshire

Budget blow

Sir: The production cost of diesel fuel is less than 70 per cent than of the cheapest grade of petrol. In most countries other than Britain this differential is carried through to the tax-added price at the pump. The extra tax on diesel which

has been in position for years in this country, bringing its price into line with that of petrol, was already an unjustifiable dishonesty. The predictable result of this is to adjust for the better economy of diesel power is not acceptable; the substantially higher purchase price of a diesel vehicle is part of the equation of outlay versus running costs.

Capricious and unpredictable changes to the relative price structure make any attempt to make rational calculations a waste of time.

Country dwellers with large distances to cover and no practical public transport tend to opt for diesel power. They are also, in so far as voting power is concerned, a minority group.

For the Chancellor to take advantage of this by imposing this savagely disproportionate increase in diesel fuel is despicable.

On the other side of the Channel the rural communities would be demonstrating with tractors and combine harvesters in the city centres. PETER KELLETT Kinlochewe, Highland

Sir: I was disappointed to see that the cheaper tax regime was to only

apply to cars with engines of less than 1100cc.

Being of a somewhat large build (6ft 2in, 17 stone) I am unable to take advantage of this tax reduction as small engine cars tend to come with small driver compartments, too small for me to be able to fit into and drive safely, if at all. (I have sat in cars whereby the ergonomic design of the driver space meant that I could not reach or use the brake pedal.)

I wonder if this is the first instance of people being forced to pay more tax simply because of their size? Dr PETER PARSONS Reading, Berkshire

Foxy business

Sir: Paul Freeman (letter, 12 March) believes that fox-hunting is a sports and requests that Tony Banks either support it, like he does rugby or boxing, or resign.

Surely the Corinthian ideals of sport require that consent is given by the participants. If the English rugby pack marched across a field and set upon a rambling we would not call it sport. Similarly, if a heavyweight boxing champion launched an effective one-two combination at a pensioner at a bus stop we would not call it sport.

Equally, when 60 dogs, 30 mounted riders and scores of followers terrorise a wild mammal we do not call it sport. At least most of us do not. BEN STEWART League Against Cruel Sports London SE1

Sir: Paul Freeman has missed the point completely comparing fox hunting to boxing and rugby by saying Tony Banks should describe them as "unnecessary and barbarous".

Perhaps they are, and knowing a few rugby players, they could easily be described using both adjectives. But the point of these sports is that all the participants want to participate. There are two consenting pugilists, 30 willing rugby players.

I don't know about the dynamics of a hunt but is the fox ever consulted beforehand? I think not. DAVE COLVILL Southsea, Hampshire

Sir: Paul Freeman takes the Minister for Sport to task for not supporting foxhunting. I feel assured that Mr Banks accepts the generally held view that what distinguishes a sport from any other activity is that it is held in public, its participants are consenting, enjoying it and have each a reasonable chance of winning. Foxhunting disqualifies itself on at least three of these criteria. DAN WILLIAMS Southend-on-Sea, Essex

Sir: Paul Roberts questions my assertion that foxhunting is a sport (letter, 13 March). I base this simply on its classification in this country as a field sport along with shooting and fishing. These activities are classified differently in the USA, hence his response.

But if we really want to start splitting hairs, most of what are referred to as "sports" should really be called "games", so maybe my original point about Tony Banks is incorrect, and rather than resign as Minister for Sport his position should be renamed Minister for Games. PAUL FREEMAN Wotton-under-Edge, Gloucestershire

IN BRIEF

As a modestly-paid researcher in ocean circulation and climate, I regard myself as a typical scientist. Could Mr Ree inform me where I can go to be cosseted and courted? Or don't climate scientists count? Perhaps I'm just a cheeky outsider after all. Dr DAVID CROMWELL Southampton Oceanography Centre

Sir: Chicks have been made to grow rudimentary clawed legs instead of wings ("Scientists make four-legged hens", 12 March). Scientists in America took a gene found in legs and transferred it to the wings of chicken embryos, causing

feathers to vanish and the beginnings of clawed fingers to appear.

May I send my congratulations for their double discovery? Not only have they found the gene which produces four-legged poultry, but at the same time they have identified the one which has made me completely sick. HE PAYNE Southwell, Nottinghamshire

Sir: Poor Christopher Luke (letter, 10 March), people allowed to walk past his front door! We have the same problem, with a right of way passing within feet of our house. However, here we call it a pavement. Mrs LESLEY CURWEN Redcar, Cleveland

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Post letters to Letters to the Editor, The Independent, 1 Canada Square, London E14 5DL and include a daytime telephone number, fax to 0171 293 2056 or e-mail to letters@independent.co.uk. E-mail correspondents are asked to give a postal address. Letters may be edited for length and clarity



Cuba No 1: Children going to school at dawn in Trinidad de la Cuba

Michael MacSweeney

Race in schools

Sir: A worrying feature of reports on differential school performance among ethnic groups ("Young, gifted, black - and a living reproach to our racist schools", 11 March) is that no one seems able to pursue a line of inquiry far enough to get an answer.

There are too many questions in this area to which answers are not seriously sought.

Why do black boys, said to be the least submissive to teachers' authority, slavishly follow their teachers' expectations?

If black boys are "boisterous" why does that make any difference to school performance if boisterousness and studiousness can co-exist?

If they cannot co-exist, what is the cause of the boisterousness, and should it be curbed?

If black boys' achievement would be improved by teachers making allowances for male Caribbean exuberance, should teachers apply different behavioural standards to black and Asian pupils in the same class?

Are Asian parents happy for their sons to be in the same classes as boisterous African Caribbean boys?

If not, are they guilty of racial stereotyping?

Why do Indian and Chinese children, whose homes may be more culturally, linguistically and religiously different from the dominant European school culture than the homes of white and African Caribbean children, nevertheless do so well in English schools?

Is the relatively poor performance of white, lower-class boys due to low expectations and an alien curriculum?

If it is, why is race assumed to be an additionally serious factor in the low achievement of black boys?

RICHARD WILKINS Association of Christian Teachers St Albans, Hertfordshire

Sir: I was disappointed, but not surprised, to see that while there were whole paragraphs devoted to the problems that "Georgia" was causing the school ("A better class of behaviour", 11 March) there was not one word about the problems that the school might be causing "Georgia".

Many four-year-olds are not socially or emotionally mature enough to cope with the strictures of most reception classes.

The rules imposed there can seem pointless and frustrating to a young child.

If parents want their child to begin "education" at age four, a good nursery or playgroup where there are specialist staff and a curriculum and environment suited to a young child's needs is vital.

Society will pay for the damage it is doing to these children, but the price won't be anywhere near as high as that paid by the children themselves - my heart goes out to them. CHRISTINE HEYWOOD Penylan, South Glamorgan

Tricks of the trade

Sir: I was delighted that John Walsh ("I'm sorry, I've been given the clues", 11 March) concluded that the nudging in the right direction he was given before appearing on my Radio 4 *Quote... Unquote* programme succeeded in making the show a better listen.

But, curiously, not one of the quotations he cites was discussed on the shows he was on.

He also mistakes the sex of the producer on that occasion who supposedly provided him with the pre-knowledge he was concerned about.

And how clever of him to be able to recall, as direct quotations, the views "she" apparently expressed. Well, there you are you see, just as we broadcasters have our little tricks, so too do journalists. NIGEL REES London W11

Revealed: how Elgar grabbed Yehudi by the googlies

IN THE wake of the death of Yehudi Menuhin, I have received many letters of tribute to him and think it only right to print a selection today.

From Mr George "Gubby" Trotter OBE Sir: In all the richly deserved tributes to Yehudi Menuhin, I have seen none that mentioned his very real love of cricket.

You would think that a man of his background - American, Jewish - would have nothing in common with the world of willow and greensward, but he fell in love with this ancient game as easily as he fell in love with the equally English sounds of Elgar. Many classical musicians have a weakness for the great game, and when the young Yehudi was on tour with the orchestras of the Thirties, he was

inducted early into the mysteries of this ancient English game.

"In those pre-motorway days," he once told me, "we travelled slowly by coach and had to make many halts for what the Americans call comfort stops and what British musicians call a quick slash. Well, if you stop in the middle of the country it takes not much more than a minute for the average orchestra to pick two scratch sides and start playing. Once we left three viola players in a field in Leicestershire. We didn't notice for an hour and had to choose whether to go back and collect them or get to the concert on time. As they were only viola players we went on. I often wonder if they are still there!"

From Mrs Angela Quigley Sir: as a cricket-loving flautist I can

vouch for every word of the above. Menuhin threw himself into the intricacies of cricket as keenly as he did into the byways of oriental philosophy - indeed, he once said to me that the two were closer than was commonly realised.

"In some ways cricket is a paradigm for the unknowable," he said to me once, as we fielded side by side in the slips. "To a foreigner like me, there is something awe-some about a game that can last either five days or a couple of hours, that can finish before the allotted time span or only be halfway through when time is up. It is also the only game which stops when it rains. Time, cricket and weather. A mighty triangle of conflicting interests. Extraordinary..."

At least, I think that is what he said. As a devotee of yoga, he often



MILES KINGTON

"Time, cricket and weather. A mighty triangle of conflicting interests. Extraordinary"

adopted an upside down position in the field, which made it hard to hear what he said. But it often served to

put off an incoming batsman! And I have seen him bring off great slip catches using only his feet!

From Arnold Palmer (no relation) Sir: music is a mysterious business. I remember once umpiring a match in which Yehudi Menuhin was playing. He was a remarkable spin bowler. He never span the ball at all, which made the batsmen so nervous that they often played for spin and missed it. Occasionally he would spin the ball by accident, which confused them further. "They can't spot my right 'um, Arnold," he would grin.

Once, when he was bowling, I failed to call the end of the over and he said, somewhat sharply, that we had already had six balls. I said it was impossible. I always counted six pebbles from pocket to pocket

and still had one pebble left. "I think you will find you haven't", he said tartly. "If an international violinist can't count six beats in a bar or six balls in an over without even thinking about it..."

I later found that one of my pebbles had split in half in my pocket and what I thought was a pebble was only half a pebble. He was absolutely right!

From Sir Norman Grudgeon Sir: I would like to vouch for the generous sentiments expressed in previous letters on the subject of Yehudi Menuhin and cricket. I often sat on the same committees as he did, and there was never a time when his philosophical, sometimes even saintly, interventions failed to baffle us. I once asked him what he

thought about when he was playing Elgar's Violin Concerto, and he said he usually thought about cricket. Sometimes he would replay whole matches in his mind as he sawed away. Once, he said, he had played the Elgar at Carnegie Hall, and in the second movement had come to such an exciting bit of fast bowling that he had shouted out "How's that!" in a very quiet bit.

The audience, being American, had no idea what it meant, and the conductor whispered: "It's fine." "What do you think about when you play cricket?" I said.

"Elgar, normally," he said. "And what are you thinking about now?"

"How to get away from you without hurting your feelings." I often wonder what he meant by that.

Race in schools

Sir, A worrying feature of reports on differential school performance among ethnic groups is "blame, gifted, black, and a living reproach to our schools". It is not, as it seems, a living reproach to our schools, but a living reproach to the way we are running them. There are too many questions about this area to which answers are seriously sought. Why do black boys, said to be least able, have the highest teachers' expectations? If black boys are "blameless" why does that make any difference to school performance? If black boys are "blameless" why are they not doing better? If they cannot exist, what is the cause of the disproportionate and should it be "blameless"? If black boys' achievement would be improved by teachers making allowances for male Caribbean exiles, should teachers apply different behavioural standards to black Asian pupils in the same class? Are Asian parents happy for their sons to be in the same classes as disreputable African Caribbean boys? If not, are they guilty of racial stereotyping? Why do Indian and Chinese children, whose homes may be more culturally, linguistically and religiously different from the dominant European school culture than the homes of white and African Caribbean children, nevertheless do so well in English schools? Is the relatively poor performance of white, lower-class boys due to low expectations and an alien curriculum? If it is, why is it not assumed that an additional support factor in low achievement is the black boys? RICHARD WILKINS, Assistant Head, St Albans High School

Hague says he's left Major behind - but where is he going?

TRASHING THE previous leader is the game any party leader must play. Margaret Thatcher did it to Edward Heath. John Major did it to Lady Thatcher. Now William Hague is doing it to Mr Major. The former prime minister was decent about it on the televised sofa yesterday, but Mr Major does not like it. Too bad - it is the occupational hazard of ex-leaders. However, the question that must be asked is: to what purpose is Mr Hague distancing himself from his predecessor? Mr Hague's rather unspecific apology yesterday for his party's failure to deliver its past promises only further underscored his lack of a distinctive new direction. When he attacked the Labour Government last week for putting up taxes, he did not say how he would cut them. This is an especially tricky question for a party which recently lost office by betraying its promise on tax. How helpful of Michael Portillo, then, who as minister for the control of public spending advocated the "ultra-low tax economy", now to advise his colleagues who remain in the House of Commons to associate themselves with the demands for higher pay of the nurses and teachers. But does Mr Hague tell him to jump in a lake? He does not, and so we remain puzzled about where he is going. When Tony Blair ditched his predecessor's policies, at least it was clear where he was headed - straight for the centre ground, which he has straddled, Colossus-like, ever since. It is quite extraordinary that the Conservatives, who dominated British politics this century, should find themselves so marginalised at the end of it. So marginalised, in fact, that it no longer seems outlandish to wonder if they might be replaced as the main party of Opposition by the Liberal Democrats - although that would require Charles Kennedy to rubbish large parts of Paddy Ashdown's legacy if he succeeds him this summer. At least the Lib Dems have a consistent story to tell on tax cuts - they should not happen until the improvements in public services have come through. If they could ally an honest line on "tax and spend" with a thoroughgoing libertarianism they could offer the most convincing opposition to Labour's strong authoritarian streak. That is an unlikely outcome of the present realignment of British politics. Much more likely is a mirror-image of the history of the 18 years of Tory government, with Mr Hague in the position of Michael Foot and Neil Kinnock - hobbled by his party's past. Mr Hague will be too weak to present himself as a convincing alternative to New Labour, and yet too strong to prevent a third party emerging to take on the fight. There is a way out of Mr Hague's misery: come out in favour of a fairer voting system and endorse Roy Jenkins's proposals for electoral reform.

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Let's avoid the next chapter in the Balkans

RATHER THAN cry over spilt blood in the Balkans, the urgent imperative is to learn the lessons of Croatia, Bosnia and Kosovo to avoid the next horrendous failure of Western policy. The Kosovo talks resume today against the grim backdrop of bombs tearing apart women and children in the tiny Serbian province which is nine-tenths ethnic Albanian. But this could have been predicted, and indeed was predicted, seven years ago. In 1992, Lord Carrington, who preceded Lord Owen as the European Community's mediator in the disintegrating Yugoslavia, dismissed the pleas of the moderate Albanian Kosovar leader, Ibrahim Rugova. By a quirk of open government, this poignant scene was filmed for a fly-on-the-wall documentary on the work of the Foreign Office.

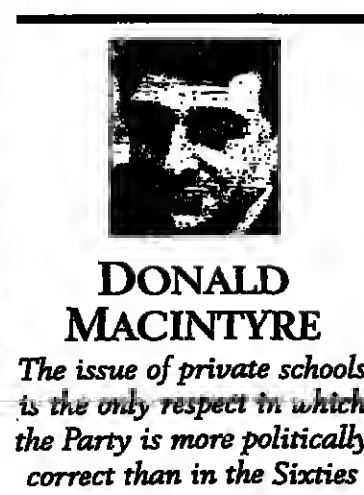
Since then, the initiative on the Kosovar side has passed to the most extreme and least tolerant group, the Kosovo Liberation Army. The KLA seemed intransigent at Rambouillet, although soon afterwards its do-or-die leader was overthrown and his young successors appeared more in favour of the compromise deal. It took the West three years to work out that mere threats would not work against the Serbs in Bosnia. Yet, a year ago, Tony Blair agreed in the House of Commons that "the international community has learnt the lesson of appeasement in Bosnia and that we will not stand idly by while the [Serbian leader Slobodan Milosevic] ignites another ethnic war in Europe". In April, Robin Cook said: "We are determined that Belgrade should stop behaving as it is in Kosovo." In July, he said: "Mr Milosevic should back down and he should back down now. This is his last warning." Yesterday, he said: "If Belgrade opposes peace, then Belgrade may have to take the consequences." At some point, the threats will have to end and the action begin.

But more people will be killed in Kosovo, before the situation reaches some form of resolution. Meanwhile, Nato troops may well have to be deployed to try to keep the peace on the ground and eventually Kosovo may become, in effect, an independent state. The West has tried to avoid that outcome because it will have the effect of moving the Balkan tragedy on to the next act, entitled "Macedonia". Kosovo's neighbouring statelet - once also part of Yugoslavia - contains a large ethnic Albanian minority and it is claimed by Greece. In the early Nineties, Western leaders did not listen to the Serb minority in Croatia, to the Bosnian Muslims or to the Albanians of Kosovo, with dire consequences. Now the danger is that they are not listening to the Macedonians. Whatever the outcome of the Kosovo talks, the human rights of all ethnic groups in the region must be guaranteed: that should be the starting point for negotiations, not the cause of hand-wringing after the KLA has effectively won its war of independence.

Labour's last taboo shouldn't keep keep a good man from being mayor

SUDDENLY, THE race for the London mayoralty is about 100 per cent more interesting and less dismal than it was 36 hours ago. The announcement yesterday by Trevor Phillips, the black TV journalist, presenter, writer and independent producer, that he is running for the job of being Britain's first directly elected city boss, has at last turned the contest into something more than which Cabinet minister can be dragged into stopping Ken Livingstone getting the Labour Party nomination. For a start Mr Phillips not only wants the job - in stark contrast to most of the bigger names that have been touted - but he has also - in equally stark contrast to Mr Livingstone - believed in and campaigned for a directly elected London mayor for over a decade. But much more important, it would be a pitiful response to the Lawrence report if there were no black voice at or near the top of the London regime, which will be charged with helping to revamp the Metropolitan Police and to which the force will be accountable. Yet there have been, by all accounts, precious few credible black candidates putting their names forward as Labour members of the Greater London Assembly, which will provide 12 of 23 members of the new police authority. It's hard to think of a greater damper on the expectations of reform raised by the Macpherson report than an all-white Labour administration in London. Mr Phillips looks on the task of helping to carry out those reforms with some relish. He also believes that it is time for the black

community to take a hand in shaping the future of the Met rather than watching from the sidelines. This is slightly more relevant than the fact that Mr Phillips admires Tony Blair - not yet, one presumes, an actual disqualification inside the Labour Party - or that Peter Mandelson was the best man at his wedding 15 years ago when they both worked at London Weekend Television. If, of course you want Mr Livingstone, then Mr Phillips is not for you, at least as mayor. But his presence as a declared candidate will ensure that some of Mr Livingstone's more exotic claims, such as that a Livingstone administration is perfectly capable of operating in cosy harmony with Tony Blair, will get a little more scrutiny. As David Aaronovitch pointed out in this pages in February, this proposition sits a little uneasily with Mr Livingstone's desire for a heavily increased corporation tax or the kind of familiar Eighties-flavoured left wing support he has been attracting at his public meetings. Or his view, expressed in this newspaper last year, that Gordon Brown "is not on top of macro-economic policy" and that Mr Blair "urgently" needed to move him from the Treasury. What Mr Phillips has to overcome, however, when he appears before the Labour Party selection panel, is the fact that, in contravention of one of the last taboos left intact by New Labour, he has chosen to send his two daughters to North London Collegiate, which was a state school until the direct grant system was abolished and is now a private school. Oddly, the



DONALD MACINTYRE
The issue of private schools is the only respect in which the Party is more politically correct than in the Sixties
issue of politicians sending their children to private schools is one of the few respects, perhaps the only respect, in which the modern Labour Party is more restrictive and politically correct than its Sixties equivalent. Harold Wilson, the most left-wing of Labour's last three prime ministers, was a University College School parent and thought nothing of offering Roy Jenkins the job of Education Secretary when he, too, had children at private schools. But that is neither here nor there. The question is whether this should disqualify Mr Phillips from a big Labour job in the late 1990s. Why did Mr Phillips make the choice in the first place? At the time the family was in the catchment area of White Hart Lane Comprehensive - where he and his sister had both been

pupils and where the number of children with five GCSE passes in last year's league tables was just 14 per cent. In the fact the school has improved; in 1995, the year his older daughter would have gone there, the proportion was a mere 4 per cent. Additionally conscious of evidence that children from Afro-Caribbean backgrounds frequently did least well in inner-city schools, he simply was not, as he put it to me last year, prepared to tell his children that he was sending them to a school, "where I know you are going to fail". He could have bussed his children to a grammar school across the borough border, as many others in the Labour Party have done. Instead he took the view that once you had rejected the local comprehensive, what you did next was irrelevant. This, of course, is precisely why a significant number of black parents send their children back to the West Indies to be educated: why Mr Phillips's brother Mike teaches his own child at home; and why his neighbour and friend, the MP Bernie Grant, was among the few brave enough to speak up for Harriet Harman when she decided to send her son to a suburban grammar school before the general election; and why, finally, many of the well-off white metropolitan middle class parents who now tell each other at dinner parties what a good mayor Ken Livingstone would be would never dream of sending their children to a local state school. Of course, it's an open question whether Trevor Phillips is going to turn out to be the best candidate for

the mayoralty. The race is at an early stage. Maybe he will wind up as deputy this time around. And of course Mo Mowlam, the most popular politician in Britain apart from Tony Blair, would wipe the floor with the other contenders if she wanted the job, which she seems not to. Nick Raynsford, the skilful Minister for London, would also be a distinctly serious contender. It isn't true that Mr Phillips has "never run anything" since he was head of current affairs at LWT for six years; he now has his own highly successful independent production business. What is true is that he isn't a professional politician. Whether that is a handicap or an advantage is a moot point. But the fact he was not prepared to sacrifice his children's education to Labour orthodoxy will surely count for rather than against him with the wider electorate. As it happens, the mayor won't be in charge of education in London. But he will have a lot of clout in pressing the government, and the boroughs, to improve it even faster. Answering the problems of education in London means confronting them and not pretending they don't exist. As Mr Phillips put it yesterday, "the most important thing about London schools is not where my children go, but why it is that so many children are failing". Mr Phillips, in short, is a serious candidate; and at the very least he will make the contest a lot more lively. Perhaps there are reasons why he won't be London's first elected mayor; but wanting the best for his children shouldn't be among them.

QUOTE OF THE DAY
"I was robbed."
Lennox Lewis,
British boxer, on his draw fight
with Evander Holyfield

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY
"Party loyalty lowers the greatest of men
to the petty level of the masses."
La Bruyere,
French essayist

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THE NEW Labour Government rarely loses an opportunity to pay lip-service to the family. But its ringing declarations of intent are more often honoured in the breach than the observance. The Chancellor's scrapping of the married couple's tax allowance is merely the latest example of this betrayal. Mail on Sunday

GORDON BROWN bestirred the British domestic policy agenda. His budget can be criticised for

MONITOR
ALL THE NEWS OF THE WORLD
The Sunday newspapers evaluate Gordon Brown's Budget statement

and allow the economy time to deliver. In the broadest sense, he did just that, delivering a fiscally neutral package, wrapped cleverly in some headline-catching measures. Once again, he was able to take with one hand, give back with the other, and be praised for doing so. How the Tories' hapless spin-doctors must hate him. Sunday Business

THE STRAIGHT answer to the tax question is that they are going up significantly, but not by as much as they would have done before Tuesday. The Government is so far ahead in the polls, and in the public mind when it comes to economic competence, ministers did not need to sell themselves as re-born tax-cutters. In doing so, they distracted from what was, in many respects, a clever Budget. (David Smith) Sunday Times

NATURALLY ALL Chancellors try to put the best possible gloss on their measures, but Mr Brown has gone further. He has soured the atmosphere with his lack of honesty. Gordon Brown is getting the reputation of someone who cannot be trusted, who jabs his finger at the camera, and then says: "I did not have tax increases with that Budget!" when - in fact - he most certainly did. Sunday Telegraph

ooglies

PANDORA

IT'S LONDON Restaurant Week so sit up straight, tie on that bib, and open wide for today's scoops du jour. Who knew, for instance, that formidable food critic AA Gill harbours an alter ego as a frustrated painter? In a previous incarnation, itinerant Slade Art School graduate Adrian passed the idle hours at a market stall in Chelsea, fogging his canvases to an apparently less-than-appreciative public. We can only speculate on what weekend daubings from the hand that rocks the ladle might feature now: *Still Life of an Aga* with Robert Kilroy-Silk's feet protruding? *Portrait of Gordon Ramsay Beaten to a Finely Pureed Pulp*? Readers with an original Gill in the attic are invited to share their cherished artworks with a wider audience.

BEST BIT of BBC2's Las Vegas Night over the weekend was the KKLZ soundtrack: "We've upped our standards. Now up yours."

LUNCH IS for wimps but the Prime Minister is one nutritionally correct dude. Whenever he rolls up his sleeves at Downing Street, our Number One Guy orders a daily delivery from Fret A Manger. Enquiring minds want to know: is he a club sandwich kinda guy? Or coronation chicken? By contrast Janet's Bar, the South Kensington watering hole, has devised a Hillary Clinton cocktail with ingredients surely more appropriate for the bubbly Cherie - it's a mixture of champagne and Red Bull.

THE SUITS at Estée Lauder are apparently upset that Elizabeth Hurley's (pictured) recent spread in the American magazine *Details* made her "look like a cheap hooker". So it's safe to surmise that it set Hugh Grant's pulse racing, then.

LOCK STOCK and Two Smoking Bagels' has started a feeding frenzy among Brit flick producers gagging to option any manuscript with gangland credentials. The latest is Simon Brooks, who has snapped up the rights to *The Guv'nor*, the best-selling autobiography of bare-knuckled champ Lenny McLean. The book, according to Dillon's in London's Oxford Street, is the store's most frequently shop-

lifted title. So much so that management has now moved copies off the sales floor and behind cash desks. As hapless Wapping ad reps are doubtless sick of hearing - your readers are our shop-lifters.

IF NIPPER Reed wins tomorrow's Guinness Arkle Chase at Cheltenham, some say it'll be positively criminal. The animal, which has been successful in nine of its 21 outings, was named (but not spelt) for Detective Inspector Leonard "Nipper" Read, the man who arrested the Kray twins. But if Nipper Reed does get his nose in front at the line on Tuesday, owner Graham Piper, himself a former policeman, is unlikely to be on hand for the presentation. Crawley Magistrates have just remanded him in custody following the seizure of a large quantity of cocaine in Ostend.

AN INSIGHT into passport applicant and avid reader of this newspaper Mohamed al-Fayed. A Lebanese-born BBC radio producer recently found herself in the Harrods food halls. The Arabic woman nearby was having difficulty making herself understood by the anglophone - and attitudinal - assistant at the fish counter. The producer berated the assistant for his shabby treatment of the woman, an underling sent by a Saudi prince to collect an esoteric fish dish. "Ever since Fayed bought the place," the producer told the woman in Arabic, "this shop has gone to the dogs." "I'm afraid you're right, Madam," a male voice interrupted, also in Arabic. Its owner, Chairman Mo, promptly scooted behind the counter and served the woman himself. If only Jack the Biscuit's boys and girls in Whitehall were as biddable...

ANOTHER INSTITUTION with a surprising capacity for self-deprecation is *The Economist*. This week it defines an economist as "someone who can't see something working in practice without asking whether it would work in theory".

Contact Pandora by e-mail: pandora@independent.co.uk

Women on the verge of breakdown



NATASHA WALTER

The poorest mothers in Britain are right to feel that they have been betrayed

HOW DID you celebrate Mother's Day? Bouquets of flowers and boxes of chocolates were winging their way across the country yesterday, a Grosvenor Street beauty salon was offering a rose facial and hair treatment at the knock-down mothers' day price of £59, and the Body Shop had a truly heartwarming advertisement for the perfect "gift of fragrance" featuring a bruise of a man and a cute grandmotherly figure.

That's all nice and fine: we love our mothers, don't we, so why not show it with a little flurry of tasteful consumerism? Even the Government was basking in a warm glow after generously handing out a £3 rise in child benefit, so that mothers all over Britain could feel not just loved but supported. "This is a budget for women," Gordon Brown said last week.

So why are some mothers so angry? One dogged band of women weren't basking in that glow, but organising a "Celebration and Protest for Mothers" at the Crossroads Women's Centre in north London, where hard-done-by mothers from Sara Keays to the mother of a victim of the Hillsborough disaster

could get together to voice their grievances. It was a million miles from hand-tied bouquets of roses and fragrance. "This protest is a response to the way the Government attacks mothers," said Kim Sparrow, a single mother who spoke at the event. "They believe that children's lives mean nothing, that the work we do is worthless."

And frankly, she has a point. For

some reason, Gordon Brown's statement that this is a budget for women got through on the nod, even from left-wing commentators. Yes, many women will benefit from his reforms, especially from the £3 rise in child benefit, and the children's tax credit, which could leave parents in low-paid work as much as £25 a week better off. But the very poorest parents are not in work, they are living on benefit, and so the tax credit will mean nothing to them.

Although they will get that increase in child benefit, it will make only the most marginal difference to their incomes, which have been dropping in real terms for the last 15 years. What's more, for lone parents - 70 per cent of whom don't work - the increase in child benefit won't even cover what they lost in April with the scrapping of the lone parent allowance. The poorest mothers in Britain are right to feel that they have been betrayed.

Talking to Kim Sparrow, I felt dizzy. I was looking into a real abyss between what parents want for their children and the day-to-day reality of many mothers' lives. Kim and her daughter live on £82 a week. "I

always worry about her food," she said to me. "If you live on benefit, your child eats the cheapest food, the food that's full of pesticides and preservatives, the stuff that other mothers won't touch. You know what's best for your child, but you just can't buy that, the fresh fruit, the vegetables."

While London booms again, Kim's world stays small. "We never go out," she says. At just five years old, Kim's daughter already knows not to ask her for anything more. Far from the hazy consumerism of a middle-class five year old, she has learnt another way of life. "She knows not to ask. She sees her friends have stuff we don't have, but she's very good. She can sense the stress I'm under, somehow."

But why should Gordon Brown care about Kim Sparrow? He doesn't want to raise the living standards of people on benefit, because he wants to push them into work. That's fine for people with no dependents. But why should women who take menial paid work be supported, while women who do the hard, round-the-clock work of looking after their own children get

forced deeper and deeper into poverty? "This government doesn't see that looking after children is work," says Kim.

And even working mothers haven't found any joy in this budget, if they are at the very lowest level of earnings. Elizabeth, another woman who spoke at the Crossroads Centre on Sunday, is a refugee who works part-time for £85 a week. She doesn't want to work longer hours, because her youngest child is just one year old and she wants to spend some time with her. But with such low wages, she doesn't pay tax, so all the tax credits in the world won't affect her.

These aren't the problems of a tiny minority of women. A staggering 4 million children are growing up in households whose income is less than half the national average - that's one in three of all children in Britain. Gordon Brown is making a spurious distinction between the deserving and the undeserving poor, in which the work that mothers do is judged undeserving. "I feel furious, just furious with this government," said Kim Sparrow, and you can see why.

Why the Church of England is failing in the marketplace



ANDREAS WHITTAM SMITH

The Archbishop keeps on repeating that the Church is one generation from extinction

THE ARCHBISHOP of Canterbury, Dr George Carey, is fond of saying that the Church of England is "one generation away from extinction". He made the comment again last week at a conference on evangelism. Inevitably, Dr Carey's remarks were repeated in the national press, where they appeared puzzling if not defeatist.

In what sense does the Archbishop mean his statement to be taken? Even the full text of the speech fails to make this plain. Perhaps it is a statement of the obvious. Many institutions are a generation away from extinction in the sense that if a high standard of service, or excellence in some sense, is not maintained, users, however defined, will drift away and the organisation will die. When *The Independent* was launched, I strongly felt that it was like setting a dock going which could never be allowed to stop; for ever and a day we would have to wind it up and keep it in good working order. Otherwise it would soon lose time and then fall silent.

Or is Dr Carey making a forecast, predicting that on present trends, the decline in membership will shortly put the viability of the Church of England in doubt? He is certainly gloomy. "We live," he says, "in a society with something of an allergy to religion" and then adds a curious rider - and "even to serious thought". I cannot help but highlight this last phrase. It is such a ridiculous comment. There is no evidence for it. It is just pretence.

Having got that off his chest, the Archbishop went on to say why he believes we are becoming deaf to the claims of religion. We live in a society "oppressed, in the main, not by lack, but by surfeit, not by strife, but by ease... and we have paid a price for such comfort and ease. We are in a situation where the

things of ultimate importance are invisible, obscured by the things of transitory glamour. The love that abides for ever cannot easily endure in such a culture."

The assumption here is that if our material wants are satisfied, then our need for spiritual sustenance is thereby abated. Yet all the signs are that our present affluence is being accompanied by an intensification of spiritual longings of one kind or another. Indeed one of the preparatory papers for the conference notes that we live in times where the language of spirituality is significant and popular. What has changed is that the Christian Church is no longer the sole provider. The market is open and competition is fierce.

Dr Carey is thus inviting us to accept that the nation can be allergic to religion while maintaining an interest in spiritual matters - a desert in the midst of green fields, so to speak. He argues that this is happening because Christianity provides a disquieting message for a

rich society. The gospel which must be preached to the public is an implicit criticism of many people's way of life. "They are not going to like it." The best passage in the Archbishop's speech is where he rails against treating Christianity as an "add on" faith, alongside two lovely children, two holidays a year, two cars, two televisions, two videos and two microwaves.

In support of his thesis, Dr Carey could also cite the latest figures for religious activities in the United Kingdom. Between 1989 and 1997, the proportion of all adults never attending services or meetings connected with their religion increased from 48 per cent to 54 per cent. The latest figure can be reversed, of course, as with the familiar coudrum of whether a glass containing water up to the mid-point is rightly described as half empty or half full.

As a matter of fact, I think that the statistic that 46 per cent of adults will sometimes attend services or meetings connected with their religion is high. Moreover, some 10 per cent of men and 15 per cent of women attend a religious service at least once a week. In short, substantial numbers of people remain immune to the allergy to religion that Dr Carey has identified.

Look again at the figures, though, and you see something else. Attendance at the Church of England has been declining much faster than it has with other Christian denominations. In the period 1970 to 1995, the number of active Anglicans declined by 40 per cent whereas the Roman Catholic Church experienced a loss of 29 per cent during the same period. Presbyterians were down 34 per cent and Methodists by 37 per cent. In the open market, the Church of England, the broad church, with its famous flexibility regarding doctrine, is faring less well



Dr Carey: 'A society with an allergy to religion' Edward Sykes

than the Roman Catholic Church, with its discipline and its unpopular teaching on sex and marriage. In other words, a rival church which provides an even more challenging message than the Anglican Communion has been more successful.

Indeed, I doubt whether there is an allergy to religion in British society. I find that people who are active Christians are more willing to proclaim their faith in public than used to be the case. We have learnt that the present Cabinet, starting with the Prime Minister, contains more committed Christians than many of its predecessors. I also noticed, recently, when I had to read through over 400 CVs, that where applicable, church membership was mentioned as a relevant fact.

I think that the Archbishop is rattled. The decline in membership, the bruising row about the ordination of women, which still rumbles on, the discovery that the Church Commissioners had mismanaged the Church's capital - all these factors have depressed his spirit.

Reading this, Dr Carey would

probably explode with anger and say that I had neglected most of his speech, failed to say that there has been an increase in the numbers of people coming forward for ordination for four years running and that more money was being placed in the collection plate. Nor had I mentioned the "rising confidence and optimism" which he notices.

Fair comment - except that occasionally one can detect in public speech a secondary theme, or sub-text, half visible below the surface. I once heard a wedding speech where, if you listened very carefully, you found that the conventional expressions of good cheer scarcely disguised an underlying bitterness.

So it was with the Archbishop's address. Dr Carey went to the conference on evangelism to provide a lead. Instead, or as well, he made visible his own demoralisation. He keeps on repeating that the church is one generation away from extinction, partly as a warning and partly because that is exactly what he thinks.

THE INDEPENDENT

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A country still traumatised by Pol Pot

THOUSANDS of former Khmer Rouge forces have recently been integrated into Cambodia's armed forces; the Khmer Rouge no longer represents an immediate military threat to the country's long-term stability. However, real concerns remain regarding the Cambodian government's commitment to judicial accountability for the actions of the senior Khmer Rouge leaders during the 1975-79 Pol Pot regime. The government's initially warm welcome last December of two defecting senior Khmer Rouge leaders, although later reversed, sent out mixed signals on the government's resolve to pursue justice.

The capture on 6 March of the hardline Khmer Rouge leader Ta Mok, who is known as "the Butcher" for his role as Pol Pot's right-hand man during the years of Khmer Rouge rule, is a very positive development. The US has been working very hard over the past year to accomplish this objective. Secretary Albright personally raised this subject during her recent visit to South-East Asia. An Assistant

Secretary Roth's direction, Ambassador Quinn has actively pursued this matter with Prime Minister Hun Sen and other Cambodian officials. I did the same during my recent visit to Cambodia, as did Ambassador-at-Large for War Crimes David Scheffer.

We have conveyed to the Cambodian government and the international community our strong conviction that those senior Khmer Rouge leaders must be brought to justice for their horrendous crimes and we are continuing to work with other interested countries to pursue the establishment of an appropriate international tribunal for this purpose.

The Cambodian government has a historic opportunity to rebuild the trust of the Cambodian people and to instil confidence in the rule of law by pursuing justice for the leaders of the Khmer Rouge. The government's handling of this issue will send a powerful signal to the people of Cambodia about whether the culture of impunity in Cambodia can be eliminated. The government's handling of this issue will also be an important part of how



PODIUM

RALPH L. BOYCE
From a speech by the US State Department officer for Cambodia to the Senate foreign relations committee

Cambodia is perceived within the international community.

The government's stated goal of sustainable development within a system of law cannot be achieved when justice is denied on an issue that has so profoundly affected so many Cambodians. We do not believe that the pursuit of justice is inherently destabilising as some have suggested in this case. On the contrary, we firmly believe that bringing

senior Khmer Rouge leaders to justice is a necessary part of the long-term process of Cambodian national reconciliation. The Ambassador-at-Large for War Crimes and members of his staff have worked diligently with representatives of the Cambodian government to outline our views on this subject, and we anticipate that we will meet with the Cambodian Foreign Minister Hor Nam Hong during his visit to New York this week to continue this dialogue.

The hardships the Cambodian people face are enormous: the legacy of nearly two decades of war coupled with a failed 10-year experiment in socialist central planning. The country is ranked 140 out of 167 countries on the UN's human development list. The statistics are disheartening: half of all children are stunted or chronically malnourished; in every 200 live births, one mother dies, almost 12 per cent of all children born die before the age of five. The country has the fastest growing rate of HIV infection in Asia. And, as a consequence of landmines, Cambodia has a higher proportion of amputees than

any other country in the world. Our current assistance programme is squarely targeted at addressing these needs by providing \$12m in the areas of maternal and child health, HIV/AIDS education and prevention, micro-enterprise lending, assistance to war and mine victims and democracy and governance.

Last month, in Tokyo, the United States took part in the International Consultative Group meeting on Cambodia, which sought to reach a multilateral consensus on meeting Cambodia's pressing development needs. While we signalled our support for an international response to these needs, we told our international development partners at that meeting that the level and nature of our future assistance programmes will depend in large part on the Cambodian government's actions.

The United States and other donors will be looking for tangible progress toward genuine democracy, respect for human rights and demonstrated results by the government in carrying out much needed economic reforms.

Joe Miss 1550

General Sir William Jackson

IN APRIL 1940, during the "Phoney War", William Jackson was one of the first British officers to engage the enemy in battle. He went on to fight with distinction in North Africa and Italy, and after the war reached the highest echelons of the British Army, later becoming Governor of Gibraltar in 1978-82. Few military historians, as he was to become, could claim such a background.

A young subaltern in the Sappers in 1940, he had been sent with his field section to support 15 Infantry Brigade in its advance on Trondheim in Norway. They got as far as Littlehammar before being forced to withdraw by a vastly superior German force and lack of air support. In the fighting retreat to Andenes, Jackson, by blowing up bridges, often under intense fire, slowed the enemy advance, allowing more time for troops to be evacuated.

For his coolness under fire in this hazardous operation he was awarded an MC. He won a bar to it three years later in the tenacious fight for the heavily fortified monastery at Monte Cassino. In appalling winter conditions and often under fire he organised the maintenance of the road and bridges in order that supplies and reinforcements could get through. In North Africa and again in Italy he was blown up by a landmine, being severely injured in the first explosion.

Bill Jackson was born in 1917 in Blackpool where his father, Colonel Albert Jackson, was in charge of the RAMC depot. His mother, whose family name was Fothergill, also came from a long military tradition. When William the Conqueror invaded England in 1066, a Fothergill commanded his army in the north.

Jackson was educated at Shrewsbury. He decided on a military career early on and went to the Royal Military Academy at Woolwich, where he became King's Medalist for his year. He then went up to King's College, Cambridge to read Mechanical Science. He was commissioned into the Royal Engineers in 1937.

After his early introduction to battle in Norway, he returned to England and joined the 6th Armoured Divisional Engineers. He was with them in November 1942 when they went to North Africa for "Operation Torch", to keep the pressure up on Rommel's forces. Just before Christmas he was severely injured by a land mine at Bou Arada in Tunisia.

After four months in hospital, though still not fit for active service, he was posted to the staff of General Dwight Eisenhower at his Allied Headquarters where, with Rommel now almost a spent force, preparations were being made for landings at Sicily and the subsequent invasion of Italy.

Declared fit in the autumn of 1943, Jackson returned to the 6th Armoured Division, this time to command 8 Field Squadron and was in action in the battle for Garigliano and Cassino and the advance past Rome.

In his books, it was his intimate knowledge of not only the practice of war but of men at war at all levels that made him such a fine writer

to the Gothic Line. After being wounded by a land mine at Arezzo, he recovered within a few weeks and joined the staff of the newly appointed Field Marshal Sir Harold Alexander, the Supreme Allied Commander in the Mediterranean. Jackson warmed to and respected Alexander, not least for the fact that he had commanded a battalion at Passchendaele in the Great War at the age of just 24; in 1971 he wrote a military biography of him, *Alexander of Tunis as Military Commander*.

Now a Major, Jackson returned to England to attend Staff College at Camberley and in May 1945 he became GSO1 at HQ Allied Land Forces in South-East Asia where preparations were in hand for the re-occupation of Malaya. However the surrender of the Japanese in August

brought an end to the plan. Jackson was to remain in the Far East until 1948. It was during this time that he met and fell in love with a young ATS Junior Commander, Joan Buesden. They married a year later.

Jackson became an instructor at Staff College, Camberley, followed by two years on the staff of the RMA Sandhurst. He gained the Royal United Services Institute Gold Medal for a prize essay and his first book, *Attack on the West*, about Napoleon's campaigns, was published in 1953. His next book was a history of all the invasions of Russia since the Dark Ages, *Seven Roads to Moscow* (1957).

After a short spell in Germany with the 7th Armoured Division, in 1956 he was posted to the War Office as Assistant Adjutant and QMG (War Plans) where he was in charge of the logistic planning for the Suez Operation. He delighted in his next posting, in command of the Gurkha Engineers in the Malayan jungle for two years, continuing the work of the Hearts and Minds campaign and seeing off the last remnants of the Communist terrorists.

After two more years at Camberley Jackson returned to the War Office as Deputy Director of Staff Duties, where his role was deployment of the Army world-wide. A year of study at the Imperial Defence College in 1963, was followed by another five at the Ministry of Defence where he finished as Assistant Chief of General Staff.

His next appointment, in 1970, as Commander-in-Chief, Northern Command, in charge of military personnel and locations, appealed to his wry sense of humour in its links with his Fothergill ancestor in 1066. In 1973 he returned south to London and the MOD, as Quarter Master General. In this his last Army appointment, he moved many of his staff and supporting organisations out of London, saving manpower and costs. Few men other than Jackson would have had the courage to implement such a large-scale operation.

Thirty-four years after joining the Royal Engineers he became their Colonel Commandant (1971-81), and of the Gurkhas from 1973 to 1978. He was knighted in 1971, and served as ADC General to the Queen from



Jackson served as Governor and Commander-in-Chief of Gibraltar from 1978 to 1982

1974 to 1979. His books during this period include *The Battle for Italy* (1967); *Battle for Rome* (1969); *North African Campaigns* (1975) and *Overlord, Normandy 1944* in 1978.

In that year he became Governor and Commander-in-Chief of Gibraltar. He was determined to understand and make himself accessible to the people of Gibraltar. He developed a close affinity with them and became known to the Foreign and Commonwealth Office for his passionate defence of their interests, and his profound belief in their right to self-determination. His three-year appointment was extended another year.

In 1982 Jackson returned to Britain, but he maintained a resolute defence of Gibraltar. Any movement by the Spanish or the Foreign and Commonwealth Office that might

have a negative effect led to a lucid letter to *The Telegraph* or *The Times*, or to the desk of whoever sought change. He continued to write. His *British Official History of the Mediterranean and Middle East* was published in three parts in 1984, 1987, and 1988 and he wrote the definitive history of Gibraltar with *The Rock of the Gibraltarians* (1988).

In his books, it was his intimate knowledge of not only the practice of war, but of the men at war at all levels that made him such a fine writer. As the military obituary writer for *The Times* (1987-88) he brought warmth and colour and an great perception to his obituaries. He had been at the sharp end and seen much of death and this gave him an abiding respect for those who had served their country in time of war and peace.

Bill Jackson was man of considerable presence who stood tall, with a military bearing until late in life. A consummate professional, he was calm in a crisis and despite his considerable intellect he was full of compassion, particularly for the underdog. A profoundly happy marriage underpinned his life and work.

MAX ARTHUR

William Godfrey Fothergill Jackson, soldier and historian: born Blackpool 28 August 1917; MC 1940, and Bar 1943; OBE 1958, GBE 1975; KCB 1971; QMG 1973-76; Military Historian, Cabinet Office 1977-78 and 1982-87; Military Governor and Commander-in-Chief, Gibraltar 1978-82; married 1946 Joan Buesden (one son, one daughter); died Swindon, Wiltshire 12 March 1999.

Alan Hardy

BRITISH HORTICULTURE, admired as it is throughout the world, would never have achieved such distinction without its tradition of dedicated amateur plantmen, devoting nearly every free moment to their consuming passion. Alan Hardy was just such a figure.

Inheriting the 1,500-acre Sandling estate in Kent from his father, he acquired a tremendous depth of knowledge of trees and shrubs, especially the rhododendrons that thrived in the 27-acre woodland garden developed by his grandfather, Laurence Hardy, from the turn of the century.

He was a true fanatic about both species rhododendrons and hybrids, some of which he bred himself. His flowers won many awards despite the fact that Sandling, exposed as it is above the cliffs near Folkestone, is one of the coldest and windiest spots in south-east England and as such not easy to garden. From the age of 30 he was invited to sit on many of the Royal Horticultural Society's committees and became a leading figure in the rhododendron world, acting as a judge at shows. He was the founder chairman of the Kent Garden Trust and in 1993 was awarded the RHS's coveted Victoria Medal of Honour, which can be held at any one time by only 63 people - the number of years that Queen Victoria reigned.

But his interests were by no means confined to the one plant: he loved gardening in all its variety. A lifelong love of daffodils was sparked when, as a boy of seven, he was given his first bulb by Lionel Richardson, the renowned Irish breeder. Hardy would eventually become a breeder himself and a respected authority on the flower, always ready to lavish praise and sound advice on this and all aspects of gardening.

His principal occupation was running the estate and its farm: his pedigree cattle and sheep, like his flowers, often won prizes. Aware from an early age that he was destined to take over the estate, he prepared himself in typically thorough fashion. After joining the Coldstream Guards towards the end of the Second World War, he worked briefly on a dairy farm, then gained qualifications in agriculture and animal husbandry at the Royal Agricultural College in Cirencester.

Soon afterwards he lost a lung through tuberculosis. This setback meant, among other things, that he was never able to go on plant-hunting trips to distant parts of the world, although he always felt that he was with the collectors in spirit and could scarcely wait for their return to inspect and discuss what they had found.

His never lost his enthusiasm and courage - qualities he needed in abundance in 1987 when the October hurricane felled more than 800 trees in the woodland garden, destroying the canopy that shielded the understorey of acid-loving shrubs. It seemed at first that all the family's work in building the garden over 90 years had been wiped out overnight, but he and his wife Carolyn, whom he married in 1953, were determined to clear the mess and restore the plantings.

The fallen timber had to be man-handled out of the garden and the resulting bonfire continued day and night for two and a half years. Today the garden is well on the way to restoration, partly through the great generosity of friends in donating new trees and shrubs. In the true spirit of gardening camaraderie that Hardy so valued and exemplified.

Carolyn Hardy, too, is well known in the world of horticulture and is a vice-president and former chair-



Hardy: 'the gardener from Siberia'

Paul Armiger

man of the National Gardens Scheme: Sandling was one of the original gardens opened to visitors for charity when the scheme was launched in 1927. The couple made a splendid team in all aspects of their lives. They had two daughters, and Hardy was gratified that both have followed in their parents' footsteps, one managing the estate farm with her husband, the other working in Sandling's walled garden.

He had an engaging, teasing sense of humour. Among his fellow enthusiasts he would introduce himself as "the gardener from Siberia" - a reference to the notorious weather conditions at Sandling. But he would never have considered leaving it. The estate was the focus of his life's activities and achievements, and he loved it with an enduring intensity.

MICHAEL LEAPMAN

Gerald Alan Hardy, plantsman: born Sandling, Kent 4 April 1926; married 1953 Carolyn Evanson (two daughters); died 4 February 1999.

David Ackles

THERE IS A cliché in rock journalism about "that difficult third album". David Ackles's third album was considered by many as his masterpiece. A critique of his homeland, *American Gothic* contained the astounding "Montana Song" which, in 11 minutes, told of the trials faced by the early settlers that made America. He set this to an orchestral score of Coplandesque proportions that etched a panorama reminiscent of John Ford.

Born in 1937 into a show-business family, David Ackles became involved in performance at an early age. He started out in vaudeville as young as four and then took the role of Tuck Warden in four *Rusty* films for Columbia Pictures (*My Dog Rusty*, 1948; *Rusty Leads the Way*, 1948; *Rusty's Birthday*, 1949; *Rusty Saves a Life*, 1949).

Having studied English literature at Edinburgh University, Ack-

les took a degree in Film Studies at the University of Southern California before working in musical comedy, theatre, film and scriptwriting for television. By the late Sixties, he was writing songs that were of great delicacy and Elektra, on the basis of his "Blue Ribbons", employed him as a songwriter.

His persuasiveness led to a more elaborate contract, which resulted in three highly praised albums - *David Ackles* (1968, later reissued as *Road to Cairo*), *Subway to the Country* (1970), *American Gothic* (1972). Ackles had a richly textured, but unusual, voice for rock music. Whilst he had a tender approach to ballads, the vocal tone could develop into an angry rasp or a scornful snarl, depending on the subject matter.

He shared with Harry Chapin and Randy Newman the ability to write in character and to construct stories around an individual. He was the

prisoner returning home to find his love had not waited for him ("Down River") and the drifter who couldn't face returning to his family ("Road to Cairo"). But he drew the line at singing in the first person about the wounded soldier who sought to damage children's minds by slipping them pornography ("Candy Man").

Many of Ackles's songs related to the downtrodden or to those who had created difficult situations for themselves. His music ranged from simple melodies to complex arrangements that could have come from the pen of Bernstein or Gershwin.

His first album used the Elektra house band, yet his arrangements brought the best out of his musicians. Not for him the bass player who plodded along to keep the beat - instead, the bass line was often a counterpoint to the main theme. By the third album, Ackles was using a full orchestra and his arrangements

showed a grasp of a wide range of musical styles.

The title track of *American Gothic* said in four minutes what it took David Lynch a complete television series to describe. He then went on to produce a series of vignettes that summed up life in his home country in the late 20th century. Interestingly, the album was made from the perspective of living in England.

Despite critical acclaim, his unusual voice and eclectic style were not to the taste of the general public. Something of an artist's artist, Ackles had a number of songs covered by others; and, although he reached a critical apogee with *American Gothic*, he was dropped by Elektra.

A switch to Columbia for his fourth album, *D.T. Ackles: Five & Dime* (1973), didn't assist his musical career. Perhaps Columbia was looking to promote him as another Leonard Cohen, but the result was a good album that

few people bought. The contract was terminated and nothing more was heard of David Ackles until Elektra re-released their three albums on CD in the mid-Nineties.

His career in popular music cut short, Ackles returned to writing television scripts, along with work on ballet scores and some lecturing on commercial songwriting. In 1981, a drunk driver rammed his car and his arm was badly damaged. A steel hip meant he spent six months in a wheelchair. It took years before he was able to return to the piano.

Ackles completed the score for a musical about Almea Semple McPherson, *Sister Almea*, in the early Nineties. He settled on a six-acre horse farm near Los Angeles and worked as a professor of theatre for USC. He was involved in student theatre production and had a success with Kurt Weill and Bertolt Brecht's *Threepenny Opera* in 1997. A prac-



Ackles: songs of great delicacy

tising Christian, Ackles had a strong commitment to help others, both directly and through his writing.

BRIAN MATHIESON

David Thomas Ackles, singer/songwriter and teacher: born Rock Island, Illinois 20 February 1937; married 1972 Janice Vogel (one son); died Tujunga, California 2 March 1999.

Bjørn Wiik

BJØRN WIK was an outstanding scientist and leader in European and world particle physics, equally expert in performing experiments, in the design and construction of accelerators, and in interacting with governments.

He was born in Bruvik, Norway, in 1937. After evacuation to England with his family in a British submarine for a period during the Second World War - his father was a resistance leader - he attended high school in Bergen before moving to Darmstadt in Germany to study nuclear physics. Although never again resident in Norway, he visited frequently and later became a visiting professor in Bergen and a member of various Norwegian academies and government advisory committees.

His interests turned to particle physics during a seven-year period of post-doctoral research at Stanford University, California. Returning to Germany in 1972 to take up an appointment at the Deutsches Elektronen-Synchrotron (Desy) in Hamburg, he became involved in the study of electron-positron collisions. He was a key participant in the so-called Tasso experiment at Desy's electron-positron collider (Petra), which was commissioned in the autumn of 1978.

Wiik and collaborators (Soding, Wolf, Wu and others) used the Tasso data to provide the first direct evidence for the existence of a particle known as the gluon and to establish its properties. The discovery of the gluon, which serves to bind quarks together to form neutrons and protons, was a fundamental contribution to our knowledge of the strong (nuclear) force. Furthermore, the success of Petra (which pre-empted a similar project at Stanford) was an important milestone in establishing the self-confidence of European particle physics.

From the early 1970s, Wiik had been interested in the possibility of colliding beams of electrons and protons in order to extend to higher energies the pioneering "fixed-target" electron-proton scattering experiments at Stanford, which had produced the most direct evidence for the "reality" of quarks. In 1981, he became responsible for designing the very ambitious superconducting proton storage ring of the proposed electron-proton collider (Hera) at Desy, and three years later was appointed co-project leader when construction was approved. Technically the unique Hera machine, which was commissioned in 1992, has been a great success, and experiments at Hera have produced excellent



Wiik: scientific statesman

physics and deepened our knowledge of the structure of the proton.

As Director of Desy from 1983, Wiik oversaw the exploitation of Hera and led on-going research and development on very high performance superconducting radio frequency cavities. This development, which demonstrated Wiik's deep intuitive understanding of the technically possible, has already defied sceptics by producing accelerating gradients of 33 million volts per metre. It remains to be seen whether this technology will be adopted for the construction of a large linear electron-positron collider, as originally intended, but there is no doubt of its potential; the technology might be used for example in the construction of a free electron laser/light source for biological studies.

Wiik was a scientific statesman whose advice was sought world-wide. As a member of various national and international advisory bodies, including the International Committee for Future Accelerators (Icfa) of which he was chairman at the time of his death, Wiik played an important role in setting the agenda for European and world particle physics. He was a chairman of the Super Proton Synchrotron Committee and served on the Scientific Policy Committee at Cern in Geneva, where his name was considered on several occasions as a possible Director General - a post he would almost certainly have been offered had he wished.

C. H. LLEWELLYN SMITH

Bjørn Harald Wiik, physicist: born Bruvik, Norway 17 February 1937; Staff Physicist/Senior Scientist, Deutsches Elektronen-Synchrotron (Desy), Hamburg 1972-81, Hera Project Leader 1981-82, Director 1983-88; Professor of Physics at II Institute for Experimental Physics, University of Hamburg 1981-98; Chairman, International Committee for Future Accelerators 1987-98; married 1978 Margaret Becker (one son, two daughters); died Appel, Germany 26 February 1999.

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Bjørn Wiik

Bjørn Wiik was an outstanding scientist and leader in Europe and world politics. He was an expert in performance, experience, acceleration, and in interaction with government.

He was born in Trondheim, Norway, in 1919. After a period of study with his family in a British school during the Second World War, he returned to Norway. He was a member of the Norwegian Labour Party and served in various capacities in the government.

His career was marked by a series of appointments to high-level positions in the Norwegian government, including Minister of Education and Minister of Labour. He was also a member of the Norwegian Parliament.

Wiik was a prominent figure in Norwegian politics and a strong advocate for social justice and international cooperation. He was a member of the Norwegian Labour Party and served in various capacities in the government.

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Arnold Machin

ARNOLD MACHIN was known around the world for his work as the sculptor and designer of the effigy of the Queen which appeared on every coin minted in Britain between 1964 and 1985. He also designed the portrait of the Queen which has appeared on all British definitive postage stamps since 1967, making it one of the most reproduced and best known portraits of the 20th century.

Machin enjoyed a many-faceted career which began in the pottery industry as a figure painter on china at Minton, Stoke-on-Trent. He was born in 1911 in Trent Vale to a family of potters, educated locally, and seemed destined to remain a pottery painter until the slump in the pottery industry in North Staffordshire in 1929-30 led him to try his luck at the Crown Derby Pottery Works.

While at Derby, Machin studied part-time at the Derby School of Art and in 1934 became a full-time student. Three years later he was awarded a scholarship to the Royal College of Art where his main course of study was sculpture, working mainly in terracotta under Professor Richard Garbe.

In 1940, Machin won a Silver Medal and a Travelling Scholarship for Sculpture from the Royal College, but since it was wartime he was unable to take advantage of it. However, in the same year Machin's terracotta *Mother and Child* was accepted for the Royal Academy's Summer Exhibition, and he began what was to be an important association with Josiah Wedgwood & Sons.

Throughout their history Wedgwood has been a generous patron of the arts and artists and Machin was given every encouragement. He was provided with a studio on the new Barlaston estate and extensive facilities for firing his models as well as mixing special bodies for him to use. Machin for his part, produced models for reproduction in Queen's ware (a cream-coloured earthenware) which must be considered among the most important of the 20th century.

During his association with Wedgwood's which continued throughout the 1940s, Machin created more than 20 figures, and a variety of other models, including animals, a chess set and designs for jasper ware. Outstanding are his two bulls, *Perdant* and *Taurus*, which show strength of form and humour; my own favourites are those pieces inspired by traditional Staffordshire flatbacks or chimney figures such as *Country Lovers* and the *Bridal Group* which express his genuine understanding of Staffordshire pottery.

Alongside his work for Wedgwood's, Machin pursued relentlessly the art of terracotta, working largely from imagination. He was a romantic by temperament and like the baroque sculptors he exploited to the full the decorative value of fluttering draperies and jewelled ornaments. On his rare excursions into direct carving, working in harder materials, his models were conceived in relation to the shape of the material and include simplified forms such as the planewood Pig owned by a member of the Wedgwood family.

Some of his subjects may be remote from modern life but they are seldom unconvincing or unreal. Although for the early part of his career Machin did not care much for portraiture, he had a flair for capturing the essentials of character and executed some remarkable busts and portrait medallions - among his best known being the bust of Sir Ralph Wedgwood Bt.

Machin's use of materials varied according to the nature of his subject, and he even used saggard-marl - a coarse-textured and uncompromising clay - for the more dramatic subjects such as the *Dead Christ*. Sometimes he enriched his surfaces with incised lines or applied washes of slip, making his work essentially ceramic in character.

With increasing experimentation and technical mastery Machin built larger pieces, culminating in *Spring*, a life-size full-length figure which was exhibited in the Royal Academy Summer Exhibition in 1947, the year he was elected an Associate of the Royal Academy. The figure was purchased by the Chantry Bequest for the Tate Gallery which had previously purchased two important terracottas by him, *John the Baptist* and the *Annunciation*. Machin became a full Academician in 1956 and was appointed OBE in 1965.

It was Machin's passion for form and his ability to communicate his love of the material that made him an influential teacher. He taught at the Stoke-on-Trent schools of art in the 1940s, where he had been a pupil of the modeller Eric Owen before moving to Derby, and from 1951 to 1958 at the Royal College of Art. Then, following in the footsteps of John Flaxman RA, who had produced models for Wedgwood in his youth, Machin became Master of Sculpture at the Royal Academy School, a position he held until 1967.

During this period he received his prestigious commissions for coinage and stamp designs and he went on to design the commemorative crown coins for the Royal Silver Wedding in 1972 and Silver Jubilee in 1977. Throughout this time Machin continued to work with ceramics on a freelance basis, undertaking several commissions which included portraits of the Royal Family for Wedgwood, and for Royal Worcester. In 1968 he modelled a set of four allegorical hard-paste porcelain figures of the *Four Seasons* for Worcester.

Arnold Machin was a quiet man with strong beliefs. He made local headlines in 1956 when he chained himself to a gas lamp in Stoke, which was destined to be replaced by a concrete electric post, declaring that this stand was part of a growing campaign against the spread of "Subtopia" (modernism) being led against Sir Hugh Casson. He was also prominent among the Academicians who protested against the Sensation exhibition in 1997, which included a portrait of the murderer Myra Hindley made with children's handprints.

Almost 20 years ago I interviewed him in his Staffordshire garden. Garden design became one of his major hobbies and with his wife, the flower painter Patricia Newton, he created an enchanting garden with roses, loggias and grottoes, waterfalls and fountains interspersed with ornaments and sculpture.

MAUREEN RATKIN
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Machin examining the new decimal stamps he had designed, 1978

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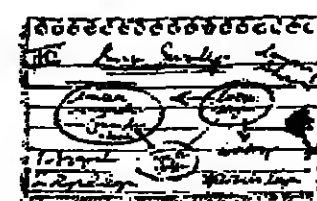
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FINANCIAL NOTES

DAVID YALLOP

The buying power of illegal narcotics

IMAGINE A multi-national company so big and powerful that its annual turnover is equal in size to China's gross national product, making that company 11th in the world rankings ahead of the Netherlands, Australia, Russia and India. A company whose gross turnover for just one financial year is sufficient to buy at current market value the world's three largest public companies, General Electric, Royal Dutch Shell and Microsoft. A company that if it dipped into its petty cash could in the same year buy Coca-Cola. A company where just 10 days turnover is in excess of the combined assets of the world's top 50 banks.

Its current annual turnover is \$500bn. The cash mountain is derived from just three assets. People, paper and product - illegal drugs.

The cartel of cartels - the drugs alliance that sits at the top of the infrastructure of the illegal narcotic world has an inexhaustible quantity of these three assets. They are endlessly available. The product, whether cocaine, opium, heroin, marijuana or the range of chemical drugs such as amphetamine, PCP, LSD, generates the paper, the dollars, the euro, sterling and countless other currencies which feed the machine - the people.

If the profits for the cartels are vast, so also are the quantities that they pump into the market. If the annual

supply of cocaine were to be packed in 1.5kg bags - the size of a regular bag of flour - the amount supplied to the United States each year would, if stood on top of each other, be four times as high as Mount Everest. If the amount supplied to the entire world were similarly stacked it would be 13 times as high as Everest.

The world that this power grouping at the top of the illegal narcotics pyramid inhabits is a world where money by the ton is available for whatever is needed. In Latin America the cartels buy presidents as easily as they buy a customs official or a DEA (Drugs Enforcement Agency) official. Or the technical know-how to create and operate "El Gordo".

El Gordo, "the fat one", is the pet name for a computer regarded by its creator as "out of this world". An apt description for a system based on NASA's computer network. No one makes a phone call, sends a fax, uses a computer, in many a Latin American city, without "sharing" the line with the fat one.

The fat one is linked to its brothers in Medellin, Cali, Bogota, Caracas, Lima and La Paz. It has immediate access to every scrap of information contained on police and intelligence computers in Colombia and Venezuela, Peru and Bolivia: the criminal records, identification data, status of all criminal investigations.

A string of hotels, major business centres and industrial companies in Italy. A huge office block on the Avenue des Champs-Elysees, another in Rue de Pontieu and a third in Rue de Berry in Paris. Prestigious real estate holdings in Montreal. A marina in Vancouver and large farm holdings near Edmonton in Canada. Farm holdings are something that the drug barons are particularly fond of. They own huge tracts of land in virtually every country in South America.

In the United States drugs money has probably been used to buy five huge apartment blocks in Washington, and in New York a residential area of 250 acres situated at Oyster Bay. All of these assets are owned by offshore nominees.

In Great Britain profits from the sale of narcotics are rumoured to have been laundered to acquire substantial holdings in Canary Wharf, Belgrave, Mayfair, Hampstead and the City, a piece of the Channel Tunnel, a piece of the Japanese high speed rail network, a piece of Sydney's business centre, two marinas in Auckland...

The above list of holdings represents less than 20 per cent of the legal assets that have been acquired with dirty money.

David Yallop is the author of *Unholy Alliance* (Bantam, 16 March, £9.99)

Dr Amin Majaj

AMIN MAJAJ was a brilliant physician and a devoted public servant who enjoyed a wide circle of friends in Britain as well as in the Arab world. In the late Forties and Fifties he made detailed researches into malnutrition and its attendant diseases among children in the Palestinian refugee camps, and devised treatments for them.

Born in Ramallah in 1921 to a well known Christian family that belonged to the Anglican Episcopalian Church, Majaj was educated at St George's High School in Jerusalem (part of the Anglican bishopric), going on to the American University of Beirut in 1945 and to London University, where he studied medicine, specialising in child health.

Back in Jordan, Majaj was confronted by a new and challenging situation. There were now half a million refugees from Palestine in Jordanian camps, kept alive by UNWRA rations. Many children were dying from gastro-enteritis and deficiency diseases.

Majaj realised that malnutrition among mothers was making breastfeeding ineffective and that lack of an-

imal protein in the rations was the cause of iron deficiency anaemia, and protein deficiency resulting in diseases such as kwashiorkor. The remedy, a diet rich in animal proteins and vitamin B12 injections, was easier to recommend than to implement.

His researches continued until the children's wards in the Augusta Victoria Hospital in Jerusalem, where Majaj worked as head of the paediatrics department from 1950 to 1991, received a direct hit when the Israelis invaded the West Bank during the 1967 war.

Majaj published the results of his researches in the *American Journal of Clinical Nutrition* in 1966, in the *Gazette of the Egyptian Paediatric Association* of 1960 and in British and German medical journals. He was paediatrician at the Makassed Islamic Hospital in Jerusalem from 1967 to 1982 (director from 1977), as well as on the board of hospitals in Gaza and Nabhus.

He was on the Jerusalem municipal council from 1960 and at the time of his death was acting mayor of East Jerusalem. He also served as a mem-

ber of the Jordan parliament from 1967 to 1968, and as Minister of Health in 1967 and in 1968. Among his many other responsibilities he took over direction of Musa Alami's Arab Development Society in Jericho, which took boys out of Palestinian refugee camps to teach them agricultural and other skills.

Amin Majaj was a delightful man, making little of his many achievements in medicine and politics, humorous and the best of company. In his youth he had been a violinist of professional standard. Life under Israeli occupation was never easy for him, but his refusal to compromise his beliefs as a healer, a researcher, or a Palestinian provided an example admired by all.

In 1947 he married Betty Dagher from Lebanon, who is presently director of the Princess Basma Centre for Disabled Children in Jerusalem.

EDWARD HODGKIN

Amin Majaj, physician: born Ramallah, Palestine 21 March 1921; married 1947 Betty Dagher (one son, three daughters); died Jerusalem 2 January 1999.



Majaj at the Augusta Victoria Hospital, Jerusalem, where he was Head of Paediatrics 1950-91

CASE SUMMARIES

15 MARCH 1999

THE FOLLOWING notes of judgments were prepared by the reporters of the All England Law Reports.

Sentencing

R v Brown and ors; CA, Crim Div (Aziz LJ, Forbes, David Steel JJ) 3 Feb 1999.

WHILE SUBSTANTIAL sentences were justified for offences of conspiracy to pervert the course of justice and conspiracy to corrupt a police officer because of the impact of such offences on the criminal justice system, a starting point of 13 years' imprisonment was far too high, even where a defendant who was a former police officer had used know-how and contacts gained during his time in the police force in committing a pattern of serious offences.

John Nutting QC, Anne Johnston (Registrar of Criminal Appeals) for Brown; Graham Henson (Registrar of Criminal Appeals) for King; Sasha Wiles (Registrar of Criminal Appeals) for Mahoney.

Negligence

Nationwide Building Society v Timbley & Co; Ch D (Blackburne J) 26 Feb 1999.

"NEGLECT" IN s 4 of the Law Reform (Contributory Negligence) Act 1945, whether applied to a plaintiff or a defendant, meant negligence actionable as a tort. Accordingly, contributory negligence was not available as a defence in an action for damages for deceit.

Michael Driscoll QC, Timothy Higgins, Ian Gatt (Dubb Lupton Alps) for the plaintiff; Nicholas Davidson QC, Francis Bacon (Barnes Jacobson) for the defendant.

Insolvency

Re a debtor (No SD 27 of 1998); Ch D (Neuberger J) 4 March 1999.

THE COURT could set aside a statutory demand served on a debtor in respect of a stopped cheque under r 6.51(a) of the Insolvency Rules 1986 where the debtor raised a claim against the creditor which could not be a defence to a claim on the cheque, if it were satisfied that there was a good reason for so doing.

Matthew Wiles (Rickerby Watters, Cheltenham) for the debtor; Louise Varty (Grange Winterton, Grimsby) for the respondent.

Crown Court

R v Snarebrook Crown Court, ex p Input Management Ltd; QBD, Div Ct (Kennedy LJ, Belford J) 4 March 1999.

WHERE NO reasons had been given by a judge sitting with justices in the Crown Court when dismissing an appeal from the magistrates' court, a note of the proceedings subsequently provided by the judge, which was unsupported by an affidavit and was not signed by the other members of the court, was of no real weight. Reasons for a decision should be given contemporaneously so that the appellant might be assured that there was no ex post facto rationalisation.

Kevin de Haan (Downs, Dorling) for the applicant; David Travers (Legal Department, Redbridge London Borough Council) for the interested party.

Discovery

Manatee Towing Co and anor v Oceanbulk Maritime SA and anor; Oceanbulk Maritime SA and anor v Manatee Towing Co and ors; QBD, Commercial Ct (Rix J) 4 March 1999.

WORDS

CHRISTOPHER HAWTREE

itrite, n.

est intimacy with his (Pope's) commentator, and amply rewarded his (Warburton's) kindness and zeal; for he (Pope) introduced

THE COURT had jurisdiction to grant the third defendant by counterclaim discovery of documents from the plaintiffs. The modern rules made a clear distinction between cases where the interrogatories or discovery requested had to relate to a matter in question between the applicant and respondent parties, and those where discovery could be made by any party without the additional limitation that the documents should relate to a matter arising directly between the parties.

Nigel Bacon (Jackson Partners) for the plaintiff; Tim Kenefick (Sinclear Roche & Temperley) for the third defendant to the counterclaim.

Costs

Globe Equities Ltd v Kotrie and ors; CA (Butler-Sloss, Morris, Sedley LJ) 5 March 1999.

IN DECIDING whether the court should exercise the power conferred by s 51(1) and (3) of the Supreme Court Act 1981 to make a non-party firm of solicitors pay the costs of the proceedings, the test was whether it would be just to do so. There was not usually any justification for making someone else pay the costs in the ordinary run of cases where the party was pursuing or defending the claim for his own benefit through solicitors acting as such, but there would be cases where either or both of those features were absent, and in such cases it would be a matter for the judge's discretion.

Gabriel Moss QC, Rozanne Ismail (Weightmans) for the firm; James Bonney QC, Jonathan Goughan (Willan Bootland White) for the plaintiff.

IN Prospect, Nicolas Walter refers to "what we used to call an 'itrite'" - one free with the pronoun. One hundred and fifty years ago Macaulay told Bulwer-Lytton, "There is no fault so common even in our best writers as that of putting he and it in wrong places." He amended some Johnson: "Pope lived in the clos-

GAZETTE

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS

IN MEMORIAM

REASON: Sean James. Died 15 March 1997. So loved. Mum, Dad and Joanne.

LECTURES

British Museum: Richard Kirby, "Environmental Monitoring", 2pm.
Royal Society of Arts, London WC2: Michael Frye, Professor Christopher Fraying, "Licensed to Kill: the matching of skills to tomorrow's needs", 6pm.

BIRTHDAYS

Lord Alton of Liverpool, former MP, 49; Mr Alexander Bernstein, former chairman, Granada Group, 64; Dr David Bryer, director, Oxfam, 55; Miss Isobel Buchanan, soprano, 48; Mr James Butler, former senior partner, KPMG Peat Marwick, 70; Sir Robert Carnwath, High Court judge, 54; Lord Constantine of Stanmore, former company chairman, 68; Mr Ry Cooder, folk and blues guitarist, 53; Mr Frank Dobson MP, Secretary of State for Health, 58; Mr Charles Druce-Francis, High Commissioner to Papua New Guinea, 56; Professor Sir James Dunbar-Nasmith, architect, 72; Mr John Duttine, actor, 51; The Right Rev John Gibbs, former Bishop of Coventry, 62; Professor John Gillingham,

ANNIVERSARIES

neurosurgeon, 83; Earl Haig, painter, 81; Sir Leonard Knowles, former Chief Justice of the Bahamas, 85; Mike Love, vocalist, 55; Admiral Sir Raymond Lygo, former chief executive, British Aerospace, 75; Mr Keith McCarter, sculptor, 63; Professor Joan Mitchell, political economist, 79; Mr Michael Moore, chairman, Quicks Group, 63; Mr Robert Nye, novelist and poet, 60; Mr Ben Okri, writer, 40; Sir Philip Powell, architect, 78; The Right Rev Michael Scott-Joynt, Bishop of Winchester, 56; Mr Gavin Stamp, historian and writer, 51; Professor Robert Taylor, Vice-Chancellor, University of Buckingham, 56; Sir Roger Tomkys, Master of Pembroke College, Cambridge, 62; Mr David Wall, former director, Royal Academy of Dancing, 53.

ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS

The Duke of Edinburgh, President Emeritus of the World Wide Fund for Nature - WWF International, Founder and Chairman of the Trustees of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award International Foundation, visits Monaco. The Duke of York, Patron, London Contemporary Dance Trust, attends a dinner at The Place, London WC1. The Duke of Kent, Chancellor, Surrey University, attends a Business Advisory Group meeting at Brooks's, London SW1.

CHANGING OF THE GUARD

The Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment mounts the Queen's Life Guard at Horse Guards, 11am.



FAMILY AFFAIR

When Nicola Davies's husband left her and their two children for a younger woman, it was a bolt from the blue. Under the pseudonym *Stevie Morgan*, she wrote a diary about her divorce, *'Beloved and Bonk'*, for *'The Independent'*. Now she has written a novel based on her experience. Nicola, 40, lives in the West country. Mary Shooter, 52, is her only sister: a teacher with four grown-up children, she lives in Wales.

Mary Our mother got cancer when Nick was two and a half and, as I am 12 years older, I looked after her a lot, so I was never quite sure if I was her mother or sister. I hadn't felt happy for a while about her marriage. I felt her husband, who worked away from home, was an absent father and didn't value their relationship. I didn't expect them to split, but I did feel a sense of relief mixed with awful pain.

She started sending me the pieces she'd written, and I felt pleased as it meant she was coping, although she was very sad and unhappy. They gave her courage and pep and made her laugh. I felt if publishing them made her feel better, she should do it. The humour came across to me very

strongly, but perhaps I tried to shut out the distress. I read the book in one day because, although it is funny, it was so painful I wanted it to be over.

I never worried about the effect on her husband – I'm more vindictive than she is. She was so loving about him just after the split – it was all her fault and so on – but I wanted her to be angry. I thought writing about it'd help. She seemed so happy when she married him, and he seemed so lovely.

I was worried that the children might read about it and be upset. I avoided talking to them about it as I'm not sure how to deal with it. But their anger seems to have dissipated – the columns and the book have been like lancing a boil for all of them.

I see very few differences between Nick and Jess, the narrator in the novel. She's got herself down to a tee. She can be the victim, but she can also be strong and independent.

Writing about it all has made her so much more confident, as if she's gone through the test of fire and come out stronger. Now I feel more like her sister than her mother.

**INTERVIEWS BY
HILLY JANES**

*'Delphinium Blues' by Stevie Morgan
is published by Flame at £10*

INTERVIEWS BY
HILLY JAMES

'Delphinium Blues' by Stevie Morgan
is published by Flame at £10

'But I'm not tired!'

Children's bedtime needn't be a battleground, as long as you time it right. By **Caroline Millar**

BEFORE YOU have children, you imagine their bedtime will be a calm, peaceful time. But, as many harassed parents can testify, it is one of the major battlegrounds of child-rearing.

My son, aged nine, nags constantly for a later bedtime. He complains that he is the only boy in his year who doesn't watch *Match of the Day*. He protests that he can't get to sleep early anymore. Weakened, we sometimes allow him to stay up. But then my daughter

Sleep may not come easily

time travelling. I'd get in and I hadn't seen much of them. But I had to get them off to bed because of the busy day tomorrow." Now that she gets home earlier, she continues with a fairly strict bedtime routine. "My husband Bill and I think it's important for children to realize they've had their time, and that late evening is our time."

Dawn Canham, who educates her daughters at home, agrees that there is a pressure on children to stay up later. "But it is important for me to have some time for me—maybe because I have them all day." It is sometimes hard to balance the needs of her younger daughter Katie, five, with her eight-year-old, Rachel. "Rachel is allowed to read in bed until nine o'clock, and Katie wants to go to bed later because she knows Rachel's still reading."

What works best, says Munro, is a strict bedtime routine. "If you have to invent the wheel every night, it'll be harder. Sometimes, all the action's going on in the sitting-room and the children are meant to just magically vanish. Of course, they don't want to go."

"But if a child knows that this is what we do at weekdays and it's later at weekends, you've got a better chance of co-operation." Adult evenings become increasingly a thing of the past. "As children grow into the next stage of development, often a bedtime is where it shows." Then, even if you've got the best routine in the world, your child could suddenly move on and you have to renegotiate."

Parent Network, 0171-735 1214

Announcements

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**The Secretary S.A.L.R.C. (I),
 Lancaster House, 25 Hornby Road,
 Malvern, Worcestershire WR14 1QQ**

**No. 001568 of 1999
IN THE HIGH COURT OF
JUSTICE
COMPANIES COURT
CHANCERY DIVISION**

**IN THE MATTER OF
INTERFACIS SYSTEMS
SYSTEMS LIMITED
AND IN THE MATTER OF THE
COMPANIES ACT 1985**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the following is a copy of the Order of Justice for the winding up of the above company's share capital and of the continuation of its share capital account.

AND NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the said Petition is to be heard by the Court on the 17th day of March 1999 at 10.30am at the Companies Court of the Royal Courts of Justice, Strand, London WC2A 2LL on Wednesday 17th March 1999.

ANY Creditor or Shareholder of the said company desiring to oppose the making of an Order for the winding up of the share capital or for the continuation of share premium account should appear at the time and place above or be counsel in person or by counsel.

**INSOLVENCY ACT 1986
INTERFACIS SYSTEMS
INTERNATIONAL LTD**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Section 98 of the Insolvency Act 1986 that a Meeting of Creditors of the above named Company will be held at Grant Thornton, 17th March 1999, Windsor Road, Slough, Berks SL1 2ER at 10.30am on 17th March 1999 at 3.30pm for the purposes mentioned in Sections 99 to 101 of the said Act.

A list of the names and addresses of the Creditors of the above named Company is to be made available for inspection free of charge between 10.00am and 5.00pm at Grant Thornton, Edinburgh Road, Slough, Berks SL1 2ER on the two business days preceding the date of the Meeting.

Creditors wishing to vote at the meeting must (unless they are individuals who are not registered persons) ensure their proxies are received at Grant Thornton, Edinburgh Road, Windsor Road, Slough, Berks SL1 2ER on the two business days preceding the date of the meeting.

THE INSOLVENCY RULES 1986
GRAYLINK TRANSPORT
LIMITED
IN LIQUIDATION
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Rule 4.106 of the Insolvency Rules 1986 that Stephen Franklin of Paines Rodley Franklin & Co. 6 Bloomsbury Square, London WC1A 2LP was appointed Liquidator of the above named Company on 8 March 1999 by Members and Creditors.
Dated 9 March 1999
STEPHEN FRANKLIN (Liquidator)

I RECENTLY learned from an old friend in Iowa that if you are caught in possession of a single dose of LSD in my native state you face a mandatory sentence of seven years in prison without parole.

Never mind that you are, say, 18 years old and of previous good character; that this will ruin your life, that it will cost the state \$25,000 a year to keep you incarcerated. Never mind that perhaps you didn't even know you had the LSD - that a friend put it in the glovebox of your car without your knowledge or maybe your police coming through the door and saw you and showed it into your hand before you could react. Never mind any extenuating circumstances whatever. This is America in the 1990s and there are no exceptions where drugs are concerned. Sorry, but that's the way it is. Next.

received on average just four years in prison. You are, in short, less likely to go to prison for kicking an old lady down the stairs than you are for being caught in possession of a single dose of any illicit drug. Can we soft, that seems to me a truly disproportionate.

Please understand it is not remotely my intention here to speak in favour of drugs. I appreciate that drugs can mess you up in a big way. I have an old schoolmate who made an LSD voyage too many in about 1977 and since that time has

porch examining the backs of his hands. So I know what drugs can do. I just haven't reached the point where seems to me appropriate to put to death someone for being foolish. Not many of my fellow countrymen would agree with me. It is the clear and fervent wish of most Americans to put drug users behind bars, and they are prepared to pay almost any price to achieve this. The people of Texas recently voted down a \$750m bond proposal to build new schools, but endorsed a \$1bn bond for new prisons, mostly to house people convicted of drug offences.

America's prison population

has more than doubled since 1982. There are now 1,630,000 prisoners. Sixty per cent of federal prisoners are serving time for non-violent offences, mostly to do with drugs. America's prisons are crammed with non-violent, petty criminals whose problem is a weakness for illegal substances.

Because most drug offences carry mandatory sentences and exclude the possibility of parole, other prisoners are having to be released early to make room for all the new drug offenders pouring into the system. In consequence, the average convicted murderer in the US now serves less than six years, the average rapist just five. Moreover, once he is out, the murderer or rapist is immediately eligible for welfare, food stamps and other federal assistance. A convicted drug user, no matter how desperate his circumstances may become, is denied these benefits for the rest of his life.

The persecution doesn't end there. My friend in Iowa once spent four months in a state prison for a drug offence. This was almost 20 years ago. He did his time and since then has been completely clean. Recently, he applied for a temporary job with the Postal Service as a holiday relief mail sorter. Not only did he not get the job, but a week or so later he received an affidavit threatening him with prosecution for failing to declare that he had a felony conviction involving drugs.

The Postal Service runs background checks for convictions as a matter of routine—but only with respect to drugs. Had he killed his grandmother and raped his sister 25 years

age, he would in all likelihood have got the job.

It gets more amazing. The government can seize your property if it was used in connection with a drug offense, even if you did not know it. In Connecticut, according to a recent article in the *Atlantic Monthly* magazine, a federal prosecutor named Leslie C. Ohra made a name for herself by seizing the property of almost anyone even tangentially connected with a drug offense — including a couple in their eighties whose grandson was found to be selling marijuana out of his bedroom. The couple had no idea of course. They lost the house anyway. (Soon after, Ohra's own 18-year-old son was arrested for selling LSD out of his mother's car and alleged also to have sold drugs from her house. She was merely transferred to another assignment.)

The saddest part of this zealous vindictiveness is that it simply does not work. America spends \$50bn a year fighting drugs, and yet drug use goes on and on. The government enacts increasingly draconian laws until we find ourselves at the ludicrous point where the Speaker of the House can seriously propose to execute people — strap them to a gurney and snuff out their lives — for possessing the botanical equivalent of two bottles of vodka.

My solution to the problem would be to take that \$50bn and spend it on rehabilitation and prevention. Some of it could be used to take coachloads of youngsters to look at that schoolmate of mine on his low porch. I am sure it would persuade most of them not to try drugs.



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6.00pm. Charity Gala Thur. 24 March 6.30-8.00pm. Wine Tasting Dinner 19 March 7.30pm. Info

AND IN THE MATTER OF PETITIONS OF THE COMPANIES ACT 1985
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a Petition was on 2nd May 1990 presented to Her Majesty's High Court of Justice for the winding up of the above-named company's sole premium account.
AND NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that the Petition is directed to be heard before the Registrar of the Companies Act at the High Court of Justice at Strand, London WC2A 2LR on Wednesday 24th MARCH 1991.
ANY Creditor or Shareholder of the said company desiring to oppose the Petition or to seek the affirmation of the Petition or the cancellation of share premium account should appear at the hearing in person or by Counsel at that purpose.
A copy of the said Petition was furnished to any such person requiring the same by the Registrar of the Companies Act on payment of the regulated charge for the same.
Dated this 14th day of March 1991
S J Martin & Co
255 Abchurch Lane
London EC4N 3JF
Ref:90114256-56COMP138161

Solicitors for the above-named company

Royal, Slough, Berks SL1 5EF on
 17th March 1999 at 3.30pm for
 the purposes mentioned in
 Sections 90 to 101 of the
 Companies Act 1985.
 A list of the names and addresses
 of the Company's Creditors to
 be inspected (free of charge) at
 between 10.00am and 5.00pm
 at Grant Thornton, Edinburgh
 20, George Street, Glasgow, G2
 7JF on the business days preceding the
 day of the Meeting.
 Creditors wishing to vote at
 the meeting must submit their
 individual creditors' proceedings
 orders) ensure their proceedings
 are received at Grant Thornton
 Edinburgh House, 20, George
 Street, Glasgow, G2 7JF, no later
 than the middle of the business
 day preceding the day of the
 Meeting.
 Dated March 11th 1999
 By Order of the Board
 JOHN TERNES Director

THE INSOLVENTY RULES 1986
GRAYLINK TRANSPORT
LIMITED
IN LIQUIDATION
 NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to
 Article 4.106 of the Memorandum and
 Articles of Association of the Company,
 No. 3, Bloomsbury Square, London WC1N
 2AF was appointed Liquidator of the
 Company on 11th March 1999.
 Members and Creditors are invited to
 attend a General Meeting of the
 Company on 17th March 1999 at 3.30pm
 for the purposes mentioned in
 Sections 90 to 101 of the
 Companies Act 1985.
 A list of the names and addresses
 of the Company's Creditors to
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 between 10.00am and 5.00pm
 at Grant Thornton, Edinburgh
 20, George Street, Glasgow, G2
 7JF on the business days preceding the
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 Creditors wishing to vote at
 the meeting must submit their
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 orders) ensure their proceedings
 are received at Grant Thornton
 Edinburgh House, 20, George
 Street, Glasgow, G2 7JF, no later
 than the middle of the business
 day preceding the day of the
 Meeting.
 Dated March 11th 1999
 By Order of the Board
 JOHN TERNES Director

1446464reservoirs, USX Limited
 Liquidation on 8 March 1999.
 1446465reservoirs, USX Limited
 are required to provide their details
 in writing, on or before 15 April 1999,
 to the Insolvency Practitioner at
 Connel Place, London W1C 2PH.
 After 15 April, if so requested by the
 Insolvency Practitioner, the directors
 of each of the above companies
 must, at each time and place as
 specified in each notice, or in any
 writing, on or before 15 April 1999,
 they will be excluded from the
 proceedings.
 1446466reservoirs, USX Limited
 Liquidation on 8 March 1999.
 1446467reservoirs, USX Limited
 Liquidation on 8 March 1999.

In the matter of
JUNIPERMAN LIMITED
T/A THE EMPORIUM & QUEEN
 AS to the matter of
 Insolvency Act 1986
 Notice is to hereby give a notice of the
 winding up of the above company
 under the provisions of the Insolvency
 Act 1986, and that the Insolvency
 Practitioner, at 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27,
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There are no exceptions, drug offenders are sentenced to that's the way nearly impossible to defend the ferocity of the US now prosecutors. In 15 years, a person can be sentenced to life or owing a significant. Newt Gingrich was still House Speaker that anyone as little as the US would be sentenced to life imprisonment for parole. bringing more to this effect is working its way.

In 1990 study, 90 percent of the first-time drug offenders in federal courts were under the average of five years. Violent first-time offenders, by contrast, were sentenced to life less often and

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 America's prison population

immediately eligible for food stamps and other assistance. A convicted user, no matter how dire his circumstances may come, is denied these for the rest of his life.

The persecution does not stop there. My friend in London spent four months in prison for a drug offense, was almost 20 years ago his time and since then has been completely cleared. Recently, he applied for a rare job with the Postals as a holiday relief mailman. Not only did he not get it, but a week or so later received an affidavit from him with prosecution for him to declare that he had a conviction involving drugs.

The Postal Service background checks for felonies as a matter of course, but only with respect to the job. Had he killed his grandmother and raped his sister?

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THE MONDAY REVIEW
The Independent 15 March 1999

But I'm not tired!
n's bedtime needn't be a
ound, as long as you time
it. By Caroline Millar

It's not just Britain's ancient buildings that need preserving. High-rise council flats play a part in our history, too. By James Fisher

What's the storey?

The phrase "listed building" summons up estate agents' descriptions of flat-fronted Georgian houses, ancient half-timbered manors and romantic country piles – the words have a magic and resonance not usually associated with 20th-century blocks of council flats. But increasingly, as history rolls forward, buildings from the recent past are being given the same status as those designed by Wren or Adam.

Isokon Flats in Camden, north London, and Keeling House, in the city's East End, are two such examples: both are modernist, experimental, made from concrete; council-owned – and both are derelict. Keeling House was designed by National Theatre architect Sir Denys Lasdun, as a post-war attempt to recreate the pre-war terraced neighbourhoods of Bethnal Green vertically. The 64-flat "cluster block" is listed grade II but has been boarded up for four years. Isokon Flats has been vacant for less time and its status is even higher – grade I listed. Designed by Wells Coates in 1932, the flats were the first to be built in Britain in the fully modern style, and they had illustrious early tenants, including Agatha Christie, Henry Moore, Walter Gropius and Marcel Breuer – the latter were modernist architects fleeing Nazi Germany. Breuer went on to design the building's famous Isobar.

There is no serious argument over the architectural importance of the two buildings, but listing them has presented the two councils that own them with such serious economic problems that each is now trying to sell them.

Tim Ravenscroft, the Tower Hamlets borough housing officer responsible for Keeling House, previously worked as an architect and appreciates its architectural qualities, but argues that in his current position he has to be practical. "The design is interesting and fulfils its function, but it is the construction which is problematic. On a pragmatic level we have serious housing and funding problems. It is even costing us money to keep it empty."

In the past the council has called Keeling House "a running sore" on its funds and, after a failed attempt to restore it with the Peabody Trust housing charity, it is now exploring whether the private sector can take the building off its hands. Confidential negotiations are being conducted with a developer, but significant doubts remain about the viability of restoring the building, which would cost several millions.

Dickon Robinson, development director of the Peabody Trust, says: "There is a dilemma involved with these interesting buildings, and it is a fundamental question: do you save them by carving them up and flogging them off, or treat them as special cases and return them to their original state?"

In 1996, Robinson and the trust attempted to do the latter by restoring Keeling House and bringing it back into use as rented accommodation with an unsuccessful bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund. "We were cautious about long-term maintenance and decided it was not acceptable to skimp on it. This made the bid too expensive as far as the fund was concerned."

Since then there have been other rescue attempts at Keeling House: none has resulted in any work on the building, that continues to decay. "It undermines the whole neighbourhood to have this disintegrating monster in the middle of it," Robinson admits. So, the future of Keeling House remains in the balance. If this attempt to save it fails, Tower Hamlets will have to apply for listed building consent to demolish it.

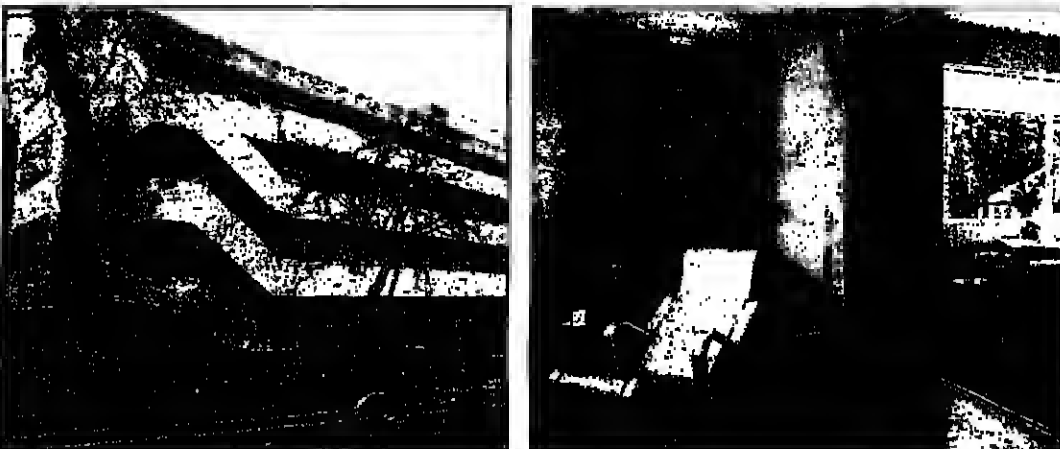
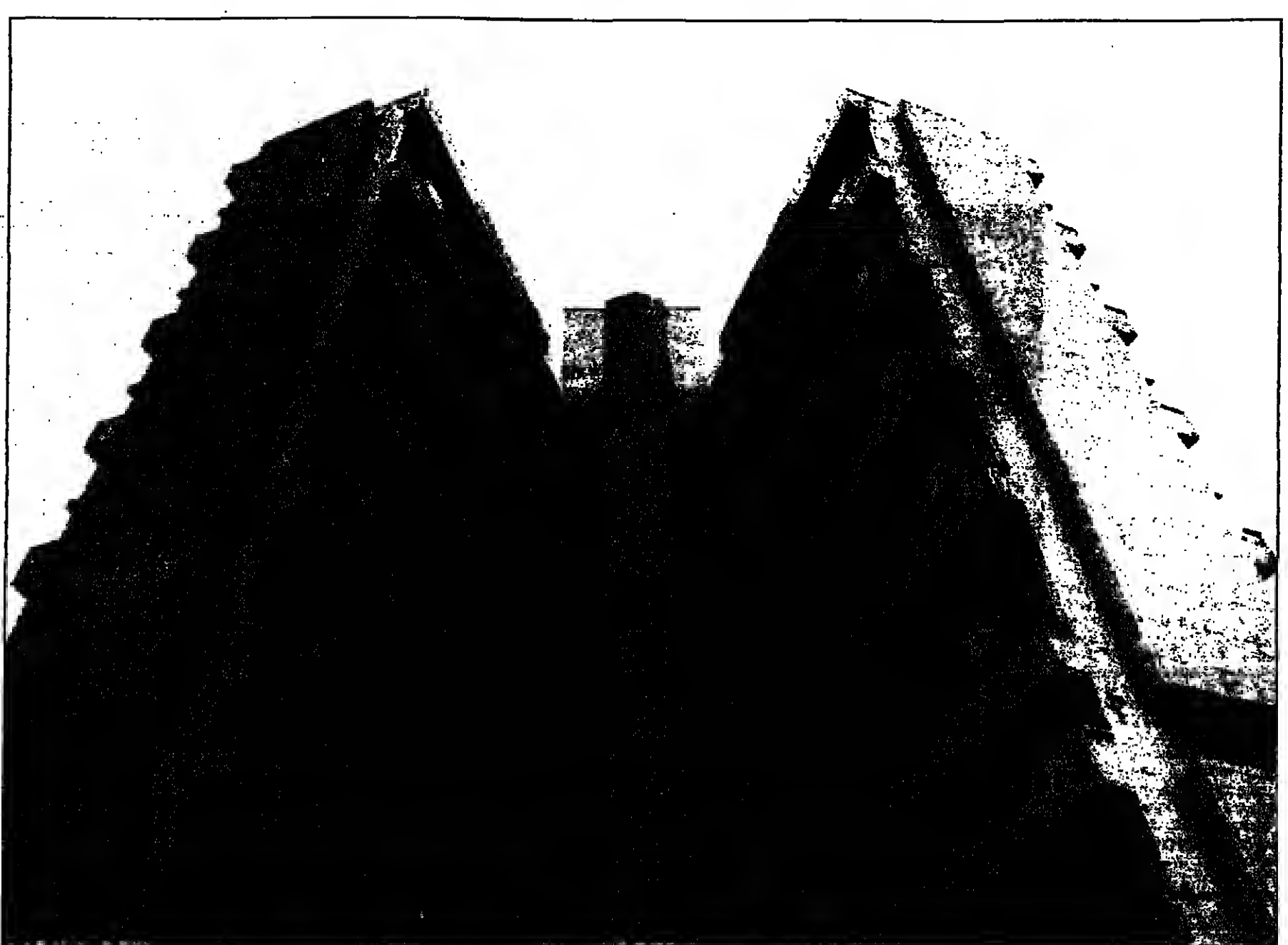
The situation at Isokon Flats is more optimistic. Like its illustrious original tenants, the building remains popular. It is also better located than Keeling House, smaller, and it would cost less to restore, £2m being the estimated figure.

Isokon also has powerful friends: architect Sir Norman Foster has said it is one of his favourite buildings; Lady Patsy Hopkins, wife of Sir Michael – both architects – went to a recent meeting about the building's future; Lord Rogers apologised for not being able to attend; a trust has been set up to rescue it; and modern architecture conservation group DoCoMoMo UK is on the case.

DoCoMoMo UK co-ordinator Allen Cunningham admits: "Keeling House and Isokon have similar problems in that any prospect of selling or letting has to take into account the high cost of repairs. But Keeling has a particular problem in its location, whereas Isokon is in a bourgeois area and can be desirable within that context."

He says Isokon is "as close to avant-garde as England will ever get" and it is worth saving for its technical innovations, modern movement architecture and communitarian social programme. "I hope it won't need to become a cause célèbre but Camden should be aware that influential eyes are watching what it does," he says.

Despite this, there are significant problems at Isokon. As well as their dilapidated state, the flats are very small, having been conceived as "minimum flats" designed to offer a cheap alternative to digs. A market solution to this would be to create



Tower Hamlets has funding problems with Keeling House (top), while Camden's grade I listed Isokon Flats (left), including Agatha Christie's old flat (right), has weighty friends

larger flats by knocking down partition walls and sell them at a premium. But this approach is ruled out by Isokon's listing. So alternative solutions will have to be sought.

Better than most people, architect John McAslan knows what it will take to return Isokon to use. "What's there is pretty basic and in a poor state. All flats are in varying degrees of dereliction," he says. "It'll take time and be a costly job to restore it. It needs a high degree of engineering, structurally and acoustically to make it acceptable today."

His practice became involved at Isokon in 1995, when English Heritage pressured Camden into doing something about its deteriorating condition. McAslan made the building watertight and created a show flat from the one formerly lived in by Agatha Christie.

He favours the plan to sell Isokon to a private developer who could restore it. But he is a realist, and says: "If it proves impossible to repair it in its original arrangement, then other means will have to be sought."

The Peabody Trust and Dickon Robinson have no doubts about the answer at Isokon, but recognise it would not produce the sort of windfall return the council would like from the building's sale. "We would want to restore it, reopen the Isokon and rent the flats and bed-sits out to people on low incomes who wanted to live there and are prepared to accept that the accommodation is not up to modern space standards."

Councils owning modern architecture will always argue it is the very things for which they were listed – their experimental nature, innovative forms and construction techniques – that makes them too expensive to keep going.

Listing experimental modern buildings remains highly contentious; listing public sector experimental modern buildings is even more problematic. But, as the recent up-grading of Isokon to grade I shows, it is a course English Heritage and the Culture Department seem determined to pursue. But, says Allen Cunningham: "Councils' responsibilities are not purely social, they're cultural too. They are always prepared to look after a 12th century church, but it is just not sustainable to argue that only pre-20th century buildings are worth preserving."

et a
nkies?

Cities need muscle as well as heart

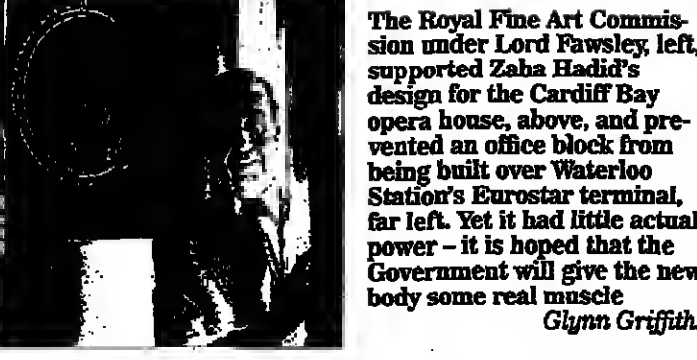
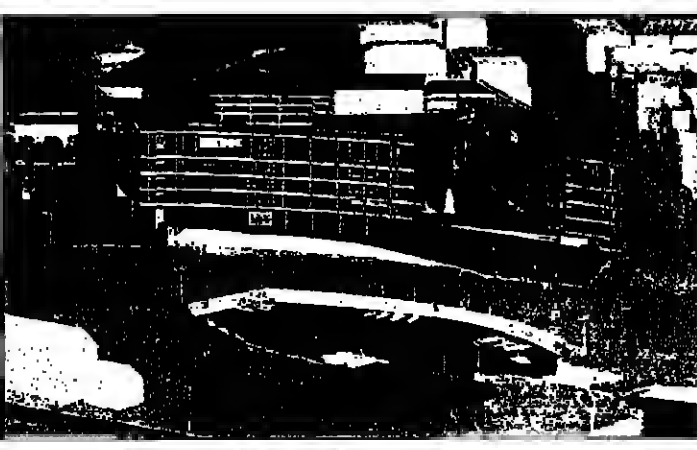
The Government is setting up a new body to ensure quality modern building. But, unlike its predecessor, will it have any real power? By James Fisher

When Culture Secretary Chris Smith announced in December his intention to create a new body charged with "championing good architecture", the sigh of relief from the architectural community was audible. At last the Labour Government seemed to be making good on some of the promises it made in its manifesto.

Smith said the new body – with the working title of Architecture Commission – would "combine the design review role of the Royal Fine Art Commission with an enhanced regional dimension and significant grant-giving powers". He then set up an implementation group to advise on how the new body would best fulfil its remit.

The implementation group had its first meeting this month and consists of figures well respected within the industry. Interviews for the chairman of the new body are likely to take place later this month. Names being touted for the role include the director of this year's Glasgow architecture festival Deyan Sudjic, *Sunday Times* architecture correspondent Hugh Pearman, *Architects Journal* editor Paul Finch and Architecture Foundation director Lucy Musgrave. So far so good.

But concerns are surfacing that the panel's remit does not include a discussion of the new body's role as champion for architecture, which looks like being little more than the RFAC with grant-giving bells on. The grandly titled RFAC was always caught in the invidious position of having influence but no teeth.



The Royal Fine Art Commission under Lord Fawcett, left, supported Zaha Hadid's design for the Cardiff Bay opera house, above, and prevented an office block from being built over Waterloo Station's Eurostar terminal, far left. Yet it had little actual power – it is hoped that the Government will give the new body some real muscle

charged with upholding national design standards without the ability to implement any. As Tim Stoppard wrote about the House of Lords, it exercised responsibility without power – the prerogative of the eunuch throughout the ages.

The property developer and architectural patron Lord Painswick cautions: "The substitute body won't make much of an impact unless it is voted wider powers by Parliament." He suggests that a starting point for the new body, "the very minimum", should be a proactive role in education with the aim of putting architecture on the curriculum.

Lee Mallet, the director of the architectural communications specialist Wordsearch, says the new champion for architecture must continue the work done by the RFAC in using its position to "embarrass" developers into improving their buildings. "I observed at first hand how the RFAC performed. When [Lord St John of] Fawcett arrived as chairman, he raised the stakes and, while other bodies stood on the sidelines while a lot of tosh got built, the RFAC had a generally positive effect."

The RFAC under Fawcett supported the challenging designs of Zaha Hadid for the Cardiff Bay Opera House, and directly intervened to preserve the International Terminal at Waterloo Station from mutilation by stopping an office block being built over it. While it was sometimes criticised as being the personal fiefdom of Fawcett, the RFAC was never less than robust in expressing its views and could not be characterised as anything other than independent.

Mallet suggests this robustness should be maintained but warns against increasing the power of the new commission: "It would be a complete nightmare to give it the ability to stop a building because of the way it looks. That would have a huge economic knock-on."

But Lord Painswick says: "Wider powers is the crucial thing. I always thought the weakness of the RFAC was that it didn't have real powers. It was an advisory body and its ad-

vice could be taken or ignored. The new body needs more powers and a wider remit: whether it will be given them I very much doubt."

Scepticism is probably advisable, given the Government's mixed record on architecture. While in opposition, as in so many other areas of policy, Labour promised much. It made all the right noises and some of the right moves – elevating Richard Rogers to the House of Lords as a Labour peer, for instance. Even after the election, the omens still seemed good: Mark Fisher, a friend of Rogers, was appointed Arts Minister with the responsibility for delivering the Government's architecture policy. This policy was expected to include a commitment to quality design for all government buildings.

The good news for architects continued with the creation of the Urban Task Force, chaired by Lord Rogers, to look at the vexed problem of housing. But on the architecture policy, everything went quiet until last August's Cabinet reshuffle when Mark Fisher lost his job, with no policy to show for 15 months' grind.

If the Government wants to be a reforming administration, it should give the champion for architecture real muscle, allowing it to work both inside government and in the private sector. Grant-giving and design review should be part of the new body's work, not its only job.

It should have a wider-ranging brief, taking in Lottery projects, education initiatives, research and all government-funded buildings. This might not quite amount to a policy but it would get close to it.

In Shakespeare's shadow

It's time to stop using Shakespeare as a stick to beat Ben Jonson. The RSC open a new production next week of his masterly comedy *Volpone* and Paul Taylor asks why critics consistently get him wrong

Those of us who believe that Ben Jonson's *Volpone* is the greatest non-Shakespearean, non-romantic comedy in the language have the chance to put that perception to the test once again when Lindsay Posner's new RSC production opens at Stratford next week. Even the bare central idea of this Jacobean classic brings an appreciative smile to the lips: a Venetian magnifico, assisted by his clever parasite, pretends to be mortally ill as part of a scam to ensure a stream of visits from greedy legacy-hunters, who, laden with glittering bribes, fall over each other in the hope of being made his heir.

The extent to which this masterpiece is so much more than that bare idea continues to be underestimated both in the theatre and by critics. It's par for the course, perhaps, that a newspaper hack, responding to Matthew Warchus's recent National Theatre staging, should pontificate in serene error that one must "always beware of a play that sets up its central joke (in this case that *Volpone* will do anything, go anywhere, sell anyone for treasure) early and then sticks to it". It is more disconcerting when a similar insensitivity is displayed by a big-shot hack of academe.

Strentuously hyped but rather less than epoch-making, Harold Bloom's new book, *Shakespeare: The Invention of the Human*, obstinately indulges in the bankrupt game of using the Bard as a stick for beating Jonson. That practice looks particularly silly in view of the fact that with Laurence Boswell's ingenious *Nothing Hill* Carnival update of *Bartholomew Fair* running at the Young Vic, the RSC is now championing Ben Jonson in both wings of its operation. Bloom slightly refers to the latter's characters as "satiric ideograms", concept-bearing wind-up toys, clockwork obsessions, *Volpone* and his parasite, Mosca, may, like the legacy hunters, have names that associate them with a bestiary rather than with human society ("fox", "fly" etc), but the brilliance of the play—quite apart from the hilarity of the situations Jonson engineers—lies in the intricately layered kinky psychology of the relationship between hero and sidekick; it also lies in the way the comedy homes in on the scam when it has already been running for three years, creating boredom and tensions in the trickster's household that the wily parasite can exploit for his own ends.

In his imaginative interest in the grotesque and in driven cupidity, Jonson has strong affinities with a strand of 19th-century Russian drama. Alexander Ostrovsky's



With Laurence Boswell's update of *Bartholomew Fair* at the Young Vic, above, the RSC is championing Jonson in both Stratford and London Bill Cooper

famously banned *A Family Affair* also features a case where voracious egotism overreaches itself and where an employee-worm turns. Its plot charts how a clerk harnesses his master's greed to his own advantage. By helping him feign bankruptcy so as to defraud creditors, the clerk manages to swindle the boss of all his tangible assets. Actually, though, it is the differences between Jonson's and Ostrovsky's worlds that prove revealing.

Unlike the bourgeois personnel in the Russian play, *Volpone* has no need of extra money: he is rolling in wealth. It's for the intellectual kick that he indulges in his arduous on-game, which makes him both better and worse than his tunnel-visioned dupes. Besides, in the Ostrovsky, there is a normative social structure. In the Jonson, the scaffolding of Venetian law and government is all askew—manned, to a man, by corrupt officers, all with an eye on the main chance. The two virtuous characters are righteous, simple-minded and self-deceived. Harold Bloom has apparently

neglected to read the finest postwar Jonson scholars—Anne Barton, John Creaser and Ian Donaldson—and so is dead to those fascinating oscillations in the dramatist between an impulse to classical severity and a temperamental love of the unruly and grotesque. Lindsay Posner's distinguished CV bristles with more productions of new plays than of classical revivals. He was, for example, the first British director to stage Ariel Dorfman's chilling probe into the post-totalitarian psyche, *Death and the Maiden*, and he is a keen champion of the German repertoire, ancient and modern. *Volpone* marks his debut with the RSC and he clearly brings to the preparation both a fresh eye and an appetite for historical research. Ask him about a character like Lady Would-Be, the English tourist abroad with her absurd pretensions to learning and her fatal tendency to accuse the wrong people of being courtesans, and Posner treats you to a learned low-down on the literary cultivation of the Venetian prostitute in this period. They

were, apparently, highly erudite creatures, since one of the expected stages of seduction was the entertainment of the client with discussion of literature and music—rather as if the denizens of today's Shepherd Market were to beguile customers with bright aperçus about *The Satanic Verses* or the latest Andrew Lloyd-Webber before getting down to business.

Contemporary parallels crop up in Posner's talk, too. Most directors and critics see it as just an irksome penalty of *Volpone*'s scam that he has to spend so much time stuck in bed being spurned by slaves over by contemptible types and regard his growing boredom with this stifling routine as the beginning of the end. Posner, invoking such modern recluses as John Paul Getty and Michael Jackson, views it the other way round. This production will imply that, at some deep level, the scam game is *Volpone*'s elaborate rationalisation of the terror of going out. Posner points to the cunning with which Mosca dangles the prospect of defiling the virtuous

Celia—a tactical piece of temptation which lures his master from the stagnant safety of his blasphemous bedroom and into the first panicky realisation that neither he nor his scam is immortal.

There have been incisive recent stagings of the piece. But, invariably, something has either gone missing (as when Nicholas Bytner excised the Would-Bes from his coruscating Almeida production) or been intrusively added (as when Matthew Warchus at the National tacked on a prologue which, affecting to admit us to the hero's nightmares, showed him being pursued through a swirl of connected rooms by predatory black-caped legacy hunters).

I suggested to Posner that this Jacobean prequel had the effect of pre-empting the play, establishing in one fell swoop that insecurity in the hero which Jonson lets seep out much more subtly. He agreed and made the further point that this febrile dumbshow implied that *Volpone* has a conscience which this director begs leave to doubt. So what would the hero have nightmares

about? Posner thinks his dream world would be full of images of his own flesh rotting. It's a terror of death, he believes, that has given *Volpone* his fetish for hard, spiritless, sterile gold, a glittering but illusory counterweight to a world of sleaze, shit, blood and mortality.

So, a masterpiece that brilliantly culminates in two courtroom scenes—the first a false, the second a genuine climax—still awaits a production that does it full justice. Will this be the one? With his background in new plays, which receive a standard four weeks' rehearsal at the Royal Court, Posner is luxuriating in the 10 weeks afforded for the classics at the RSC. That timespan has proved a Godsend, since early in the rehearsal process the cast was hit by chicken-pox. Now, though, they are fighting fit and raring to demonstrate that, compared with the warped psychological diseases they have to inhabit in this great comedy, mere chicken-pox is way down on the sickness scale.

RSC Stratford: 01789 295623

Eager to please

CABARET

MICHAEL FEINSTEIN
BARRICAN
LONDON

I CAN see Michael Feinstein aged about nine. To the delight of his mother (at least) he must have been a piano prodigy, doing songs from the shows at weddings and bar mitzvahs. At my bar mitzvah I wore a velvet jacket (it was the Seventies) so imagine my surprise when Feinstein walked on to the vast Barbican stage wearing the very same item.

Okay, I'm exaggerating, but he was sporting something suspiciously similar, topped off with a smile as permanent as the creases in his lounge-suit trousers. But then that's what Feinstein is: an upmarket lounge act. Sorry, I got that wrong. Michael Feinstein is an acclaimed contemporary pop vocal stylist. At least, that's what the programme says, on the same page as an advertisement for the Michael Feinstein Appreciation Society. He has made a formidable career as a matchless archivist/performer of The Great American Songbook. After six years as Ira Gershwin's amanuensis, he began performing trunkloads of material, and his incredibly extensive repertoire includes all the Tin Pan Alley greats.

He has a treasure trove of little-known gems at his fingertips. Fancy hearing Johnny Mercer's complete lyrics to "Too Marvelous for Words"? Feinstein's your man. Fancy a swift spin through the witty, uptempo "Rhode Island is Famous For You", a smart, States-wide list-song including the line "Pencils come from Pennsylvania/Vests from West Virginia..."? He'll do it. The problem is just how he does it.

On this occasion, he and his grand piano were surrounded by a six-piece band playing fit to bust. Unfortunately, the sound mix was so bass-bound that his piano-playing could often barely be heard. He does his own arrangements, cunningly slipping no less than 15 Gershwin melodies into the accompaniment to "Embraceable You". All very clever, but beneath the skill and the sentimentality there's remarkably little happening. His high baritone voice is unyielding and curiously inexpressive.

There are cocktail pianists the world over, however, who would chop off their limbs for his keyboard skills. At two points he asks for requests, producing on-the-spot medleys with lush accompaniments full of Gershwin-style chromatic harmonic progressions and gambolling arpeggios. It's the strongest part of the act, the tension dropping away as he thinks his way through unheard-of music. Elsewhere, you wish he'd calm down. When someone asked for "C'est Si Bon"—made famous by Eartha Kitt—he launched into a purring imitation. Whatever he's on, he should lower the dosage. At some level, he's still a kid—all too eager to please.

DAVID BENEDICT

The ghost in the machinery

THE GHOST of Old Hamlet comes in all shapes and sizes. In Richard Eyre's memorable Royal Court staging, the revenant spook emerged, in a guttural blast, from the cellarage of his son's innards. He didn't exist as an external reality, but as a voice and an imperative inside his heir. I've even seen a Japanese production in which the ghost appeared as a blue lambent flame, darting and teasing like an eschatological Tinkerbell.

For puzzling strangeness, though, the palm must go to the treatment dreamt up by Christopher Geelan's otherwise admirably plain, honest and, therefore, compelling Theatre Unlimited production now playing at Greenwich. Here the ghost is pre-

sented as a Chorus of the inhabitants of Elsinore (Claudius, Gertrude, Polonius etc), its voice shifting from one section to another. This approach certainly makes Hamlet's closet scene with Gertrude look a mite overcrowded, and there's none of the wringing pathos that comes from the ghost's closeness to his unwitting former wife.

It may be that I have failed to follow the emotional logic of this interpretation, but given that we have it on an impartial authority that old Hamlet was a most singular man, it seems counterproductive to convey him as though he were the social product of his posterity. A tall lean figure, awkwardly buttoned into a

THEATRE

HAMLET
GREENWICH THEATRE
LONDON

dark modern suit, and given to popping on a pair of heavy framed specs whenever he adopts his whimsically barbed antic disposition, Rupert Wickham's Hamlet is wonderfully fresh and involving. Unlike the personnel of a certain production of *Macbeth* currently in the West End, Geelan's cast know their way round the shifting social architecture of an iambic line. Because of this increasingly rare skill, Wickham, who shifts between passionate

intellectual and sardonic alternative comedian, can really engage you in the life of Hamlet's mind.

Theatre Unlimited have a specific remit to reach out to schools and community groups and while they are here, some 19 schools will be performing experimental re-workings of *Hamlet* under their aegis. The easy thing would have been to create, within budgetary constraints, a production which pandered to the prejudices of our predominantly visual culture. Instead, the company have had the courage to mount a version in which, as the overwhelmingly teenage audience at the opening night proved, you hang on to every word. A much more stretching, en-

joyable and educative experience to be reminded why, in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, Theseus greets the prospect of the mechanical's amateur dramatics with the now foreign-sounding remark: "I will hear that play." This *Hamlet* may have its rough and ready aspects and one or two moments where it fails to attend to the implications of the story (would the cagey Claudius really give audience to Rosencrantz and Guildenstern and Polonius while in the dead-giveaway posture of praying, or trying to, in the chapel?)

But—and this is no mean achievement—it makes you hear this masterpiece as if for the first time.

PAUL TAYLOR



Wickham enthralled the teenage audiences

Geraint Lewis

THIS WAS THE WEEK THAT WAS

Today On this day in 1982 the big theatrical event was not on stage but in court, when Michael Bogdanov went on trial on a criminal charge of directing the allegedly indecent *The Romans in Britain*.

Howard Brenton's play featuring a male rape had been denounced by the drama critic Mary Whitehouse, but the brave Attorney-General stopped the trial—and the fun—next day.

Tomorrow In 1898 artist Aubrey Beardsley came to his own *fin de siècle*, dying the way a leading Decadent and Yellow Book illustrator would want to go: of TB in France. "Yes, We Have No Bananas" was published in 1923; some said the song owed its tune to the Hallejluh Chorus. Try it in the bath.

Wednesday In a dreadful



Beardsley's vision

warning to whoever succeeds Ted Hughes. Poet Laureate Colley Cibber was summoned to court by Captain Hercules Vinegar (alias novelist Henry Fielding) on a charge of murder—of the English language.

Thursday Was Ivan so Terrible? Probably. He died in 1584, allegedly from sorrow after killing his son, but to his credit inspired the film epic of Eisenstein the Terribly Good.

JONATHAN SALE

Friday Edgar Rice Burroughs died in 1950; as well as creating Tarzan, the aristocratic apeman, he wrote *The Chessmen of Mars*, *The Wizard of Venus* and a sequence of novels set inside a hollow Earth.

Saturday In 1917 Vera Lynn was born as the less harmonious-sounding Vera Welch; the "Forces Sweetheart" hit the charts with "We'll Meet Again" and "White Cliffs of Dover", neither of which, oddly enough, have been re-issued in a drum'n'bass remix.

Sunday In 1969 John Lennon and Yoko Ono gave peace a chance by staying in bed; on honeymoon at the Amsterdam Hilton they staged their "Beds in Peace" demonstration.

A green and pleasant city

VISUAL ARTS

ANYA GALLACCIO: GLASGOW
THE OLD COURT HOUSE
GLASGOW

IF PERCY Throver were still with us, his favourite YBA would be Anya Gallaccio. Known for her monumental installations of natural material left to decay—hundreds of oranges, 10,000 roses, chains of red gerberas and 34 tons of ice—the artist has of late turned to more green-fingered projects. She transformed the lawn outside London's Serpentine Gallery in 1997, planting wild flowers and vegetables in all the bare patches. Now though, in Glasgow, Gallaccio is engaged in a spot of rather more dramatic container gardening.

Part of a series of one-off projects commissioned by Tramway in found spaces across the city, while the venue is closed for redevelopment, Gallaccio is housed in a grand, Victorian building in the final stages of renovation to its former splendour. In one high-ceilinged room, the

artist has designed and planted a living carpet of tiny plants and flowers in a temporary concrete floor. Initially inspired by the way weeds and hushes grow through the roofs and windows of derelict buildings, Gallaccio took her design from the archives of Glasgow's Templeton Carpet Factory. The work takes its title from the Gaelic word for Glasgow, *Glaschu*, meaning "dear, green place", playing on the city's historical and contemporary identity.

The design and the building refer back to Glasgow's great days as second city of the Empire (the building was lavishly built using money from the tobacco trade), while the

contrast of concrete to vulnerable-looking greenery harks back to the unsympathetic redevelopment of the city in the 1960s. There is an autobiographical aspect to the work too, in that Gallaccio was born in Glasgow, but her family moved to London when she was a toddler. It is both an emotional and slightly sentimental response to this experience, as the title suggests, and a more distanced reflection on the idea of origin and putting down roots. The concrete, the unfinished restoration work and the chill air in the installation space undercut any cosy, rose-tinted perspective.

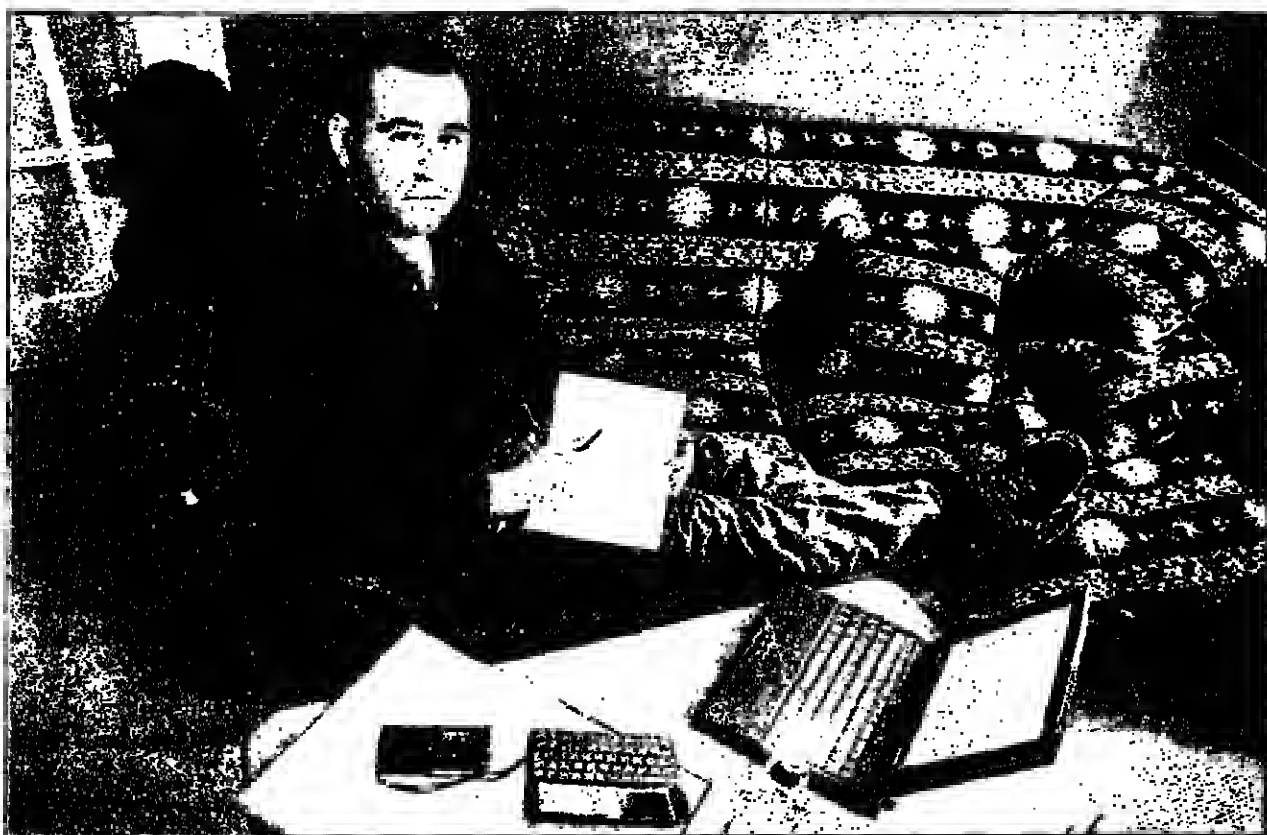
Glaschu was conceived as a green line-drawing to be seen from a balcony above but, owing to safety problems in the venue, this isn't possible. This is a pity, as the effect of the work as a whole is slightly diminished by that lack of an overview.

That said, looking at the plants and lines of green life through the concrete around your feet brings other pleasures. The high-ceilinged room is put into bizarre relief by these tiny signs of life: you feel simultaneously dwarfed by the space and a clumsy giant compared to the plants. Best of all is the feeling of stumbling across a secret garden in the middle of the city, not some hazy, sun-drenched paradise—this is, after all, Glasgow, where the daffodils aren't out yet—but a quiet corner where past, present and future mingle in unexpected ways. In a city renowned for contrasts—its hard men, friendly people, poverty, architectural richness, concrete housing and much-loved green places—Gallaccio's *Glaschu* makes perfect sense.

Tb 25 April

ELISABETH MAHONEY

MY TECHNOLOGY



Simon Block with his Olivetti laptop, Psion, Sony tape recorder – and pencil and notebook Richard Olivier

Playwright stuff

Pencil and PC both have a role in Simon Block's work

Technology is integral to how I write. It is a step-by-step process. Usually, I write a first draft in pencil, in a notebook, so that I can take the pad around with me and work wherever I am. It wouldn't be very easy to lug a computer around. I also need to read over what I have written, and I think it is easier to read from paper.

But the appeal of this first stage is that I think you write better on paper. There is something about putting the words down on the page; perhaps it is because part of your character – and therefore your fictional characters – can be seen in your handwriting. It's closer to your style, to your thoughts. And I can certainly write freehand almost as fast as I think.

When I have got as close as possible to the thoughts in my head, I transfer the notes on to

my laptop. This is when I find the computer very useful: it is the perfect tool for editing and tightening copy. I can also transfer the disk to my Psion, and am therefore able to have a draft of a play with me at all times. The Psion is a great advance, mostly because the 5 Series has a keyboard that is almost identical to the normal keyboard, and the keys are a decent size. It is very useful during production – for instance, quick changes to the script can be made and the new version printed.

I also use a Dictaphone, an underrated tool, I feel. Perhaps I appreciate the Dictaphone because I'm comfortable using it in public. I once worked for a very poor company which, instead of spending money on reference books, would send me to the bookshop where I would have to read the relevant pages out loud into a

Dictaphone. So, you see, it is an essential recording device!

But seriously, because, for me, writing takes place in my head mostly, the foremost act is getting it recorded in some form or another. That is the most important part, then you move on to making it as accessible as possible during the rewriting process.

Because I use the Dictaphone and Psion as well as pen and paper, I don't have to be stuck in one place when I write. Thoughts are the most important part of writing, and whether I am at a café or working in the bedroom when my wife is asleep.

Through plenty of experience, I have realised the absolute necessity of getting thoughts down before they are forgotten. And I have developed a capacity to work almost anywhere. Certain pieces of

technology mean that this can be done with more ease.

But ease is not the deciding factor. For instance, I wouldn't use the software which types automatically from speech. It is practical, but creatively it could be a nightmare. You run the risk of useless talk.

Also, it is worth noting that when you see words on a computer screen, they look better. An illusion is created when words appear on a computer – it makes them look smart. Again, this is why I write the first draft with pencil: it is more obvious if the words don't work.

Simon Block is currently under commission to the Royal National Theatre. His play, 'No Exp. Reg'd', is at Hampstead Theatre, north London, until 25 March (0171-722 9301).

INTERVIEW BY
JENNIFER RODGER

Content is the king

YOU WOULD think it was obvious: people come to the Web to get content. Whether it is news, stock reports, football scores or directions across town, it's about the content. Yet looking around at the Web you would imagine people were coming for the mind-blowing experience of the navigation or to drool over the exquisite banner ads. Then there are the sites of endless lists of links that point to sites made up of yet more lists of links. At times it seems as if there is a teaspoon of content in an ocean of websites.

Even the best design work can't make up for a lack of good content. While great design cannot overcome poor content, bad design can obscure even the best content.

Websites without good content are like butterflies without a body; they may have a beautiful mode of transportation, but they still won't get anywhere. If the interface designer has done his or her job well, then the interface should be virtually invisible to the visitor and the content should be the thing that shines through.

But how do you make sure that you have good content presented in a useful manner? Here are a few things that I consider.

Know what the content is: Most people think of content as being the text that they read on the

WEB DESIGN

JASON
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screen, but content for the Web is so much more.

The content of a site gives information that visitors are looking for to help them understand a concept, to help them answer a question or to help them solve a problem. That will not only include the written word but may also include photos, illustrations, video and audio. It can even include software programs that the visitor interacts with to gain information.

Before you start to design your site, you should clearly define the information that will be presented and how different pieces of information work together. In addition, all the various forms of content should work together, supporting the information you want to convey in an integrated fashion.

Have something to say or show: This will depend on

many factors, the most important being the type of site you are creating. If it's your own home page, you need to tell your own story. If you are designing a site for a corporation, the content will more than likely be given to you. The important thing is that what you have to say is meaningful to your intended audience. People know when they are reading fluff and will instantly shut down their minds to such "filler" content. Once that happens, you have lost them for good.

Target your audience: Regardless of the source of the content, you should always keep in mind what your audience will want to view. To do that you have to know your visitor.

Maximise the content display area: Remember that the content is the star of the show. On so many sites, much of the screen space is taken up by logos, navigation, banner ads and other clutter, and content is reduced to an area the size of a postage stamp.

Set the content width: Wait a minute, didn't I just say maximise the content display area? While you should allow the overall content display area to take up as much screen space as possible, there are certain limiting factors – especially in terms of the width of the content. The human eye is

best built for the scanning of information, and the longer the horizontal distance a viewer has to scan, the harder scanning becomes. This is especially true when scanning text.

You will notice that newspapers set their columns to a relatively narrow width. This allows readers quickly to scan a news story to find the salient points. The comfortable reading width of text is based on the size of the font being used. Larger fonts allow you to have longer widths. Break textual content into fixed-width columns to make them easier to read and set your font size using the font tag, or better yet, Cascading Style Sheets (<http://www.independent.co.uk/net/980407ne/story8.html>).

Explain your links: Always let the visitor know where a link will take them. Studies show that one of the chief complaints of website visitors is that they get lost in links and are thus not able to find the content they are seeking. Avoid this problem by including a brief explanation of where visitors will be taken when they select a particular link. The more specific you are about where the link is going, the less confused your visitor will be.

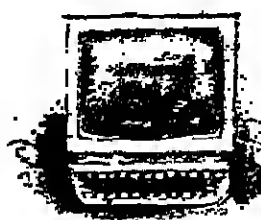
Send your comments or queries to jason@webbedenvironments.com

BYTES
ANDY OLDFIELD

RED HAT Software, a distributor of the open source Linux operating system, last week said that Compaq, IBM, Novell and Oracle had made investments in the company. The four companies had previously said they would support Red Hat Linux on a variety of their servers and workstations. Intel and Netscape bought into the company last year along with two venture capital companies.

Linux, which boasts greater stability and lower system requirements than Windows NT on networks and servers, has about 10 million users at present. An internal memo at Microsoft last year identified Linux as a growing rival in the operating systems market.

INTELS CONTROVERSIAL serial number identification technology is not unique to the Pentium III processor. The company said last week that an early version had been built into some mobile versions of its Pentium II processors.



"We were informed by a customer that the chip ID was present in the mobile Pentium II processor in mobile module form," George Alfs, an Intel spokesman, said.

"The serial number circuitry was included to test the manufacturing process. Although the circuit was supposed to be switched off before the processors shipped, some left the factory with it still enabled. That slipped through. We had no intention to turn this on for the Pentium II. The processor serial number is only a Pentium III feature," Alfs said.

Meanwhile, consumer and privacy groups in the United States continued to lobby the

Federal Trade Commission to launch a full investigation of the serial number technology and its implications for privacy. "We're seeking an injunction on the chip itself and an investigation of the safest way for PC manufacturers to disable the chip," Ari Schwartz, a policy analyst at the Center for Democracy and Technology, said.

MICROSOFT HAS asked the US Department of Justice (DoJ) to investigate possible antitrust practices by US airline companies. MSN Expedia, Microsoft's web-based travel service, and other online travel agents are jointly filing a complaint through three trade associations, the Interactive Travel Services Association, the American Society of Travel Agents, and the Coalition for Travel Industry Parity.

Although only 2 per cent of bookings are currently performed online, a Jupiter Communications study suggests that figure will be 60 per cent

by 2002. Travel agents are concerned that airline companies are determined to drive customers direct to their own websites, rather than to travel agents' sites.

At present airlines offer travel agents lower commissions and fees for tickets sold via the web, and are thought to be planning to offer extra services that travel agents traditionally supply such as car hire and accommodation reservations.

LUCENT TECHNOLOGIES last week announced a new laser, the WaveStar 40G Express, that can carry four times more data than existing lasers and opens up prospects of faster telecommunications and Internet access. MCI WorldCom will test the first commercial system capable of delivering 40 gigabits per second over a single wavelength on a single fibre optic cable. The laser transmits the equivalent of 500,000 simultaneous phone calls on a single wavelength.

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Expressions of interest are invited from organisations wishing to become Qualified Suppliers to the University for Industry (UFI) for the provision of open and distance learning materials.

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As part of the process for achieving these objectives the UFI will broker the provision of learning materials:

- by endorsing materials which already meet its learning quality criteria
- by enhancing other materials so that they meet its criteria and then endorsing
- by commissioning the development of new material where there is a lack of suitable provision.

The UFI criteria are available on our website.

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- companies, institutions, organisations or consortia which are capable of undertaking the development of material commissioned to a UFI specification.

All UFI endorsed material will be made available through a national network of learning centres.

Current priority areas are all levels of: information and communications technologies, basic skills, small and medium sized enterprises (for example in the areas of management development, financial management, marketing, etc.), and the specific sectors of automotive components, multi-media, environmental technology and services, and distributive and retail trades.

Further details, including how to register an interest and the information which UFI will require, can be found on our website at <http://www.lifelonglearning.co.uk/ufi>.

For queries which cannot be answered by the information on the website please enquire via email at qs.ufi@mcmail.com or by fax on 0114 270 0034.

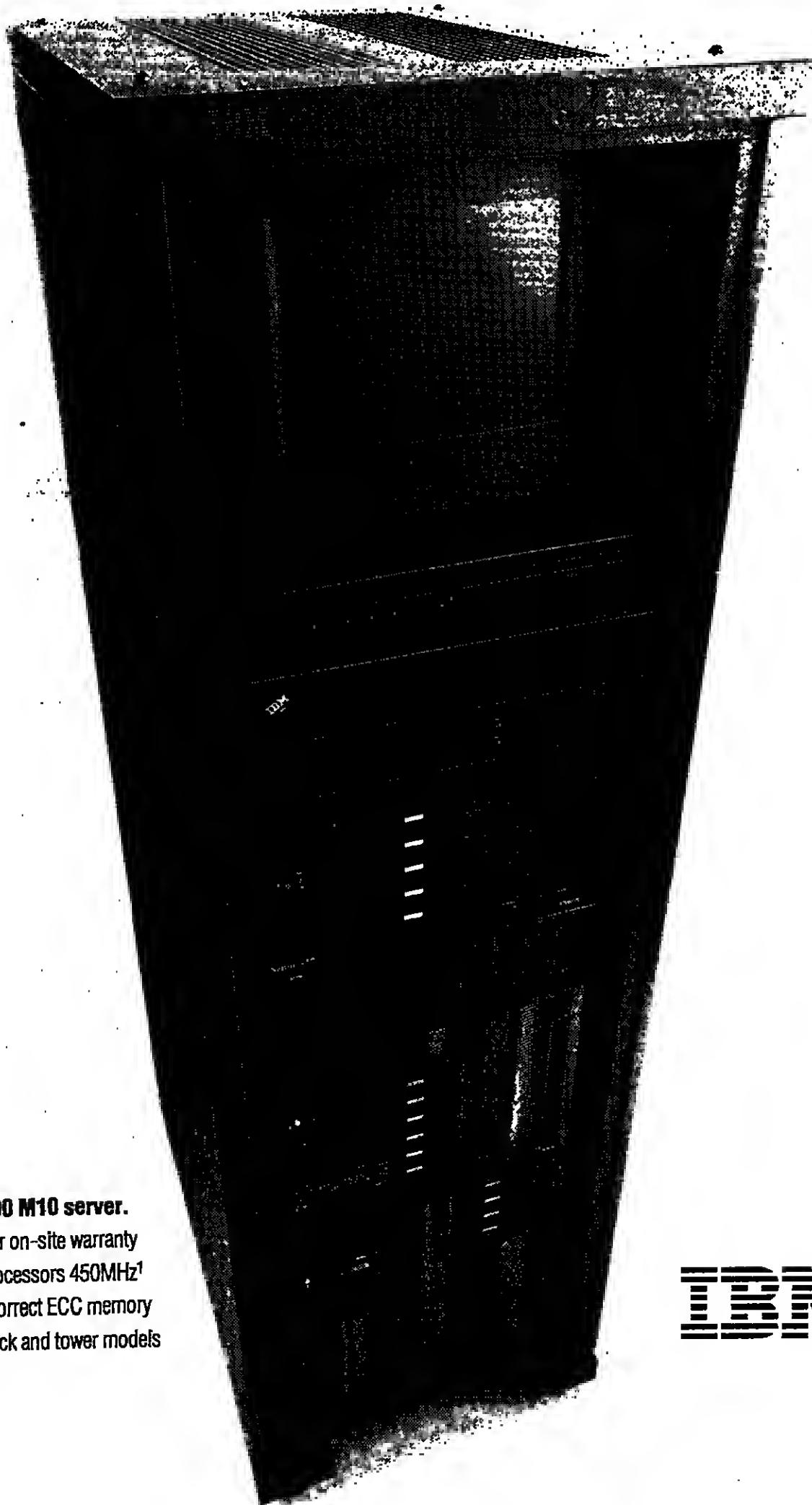
The deadline for receipt of expressions of interest is 12 April 1999.



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- JAVA, POWERBUILDER, DEVELOPER 2000
- ORACLE FINANCIALS, FORTE, NASTAR, SELECT, RATIONAL, UNIL

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Professor Peter Newby, Company Secretary, East London and Lee Valley Teleregion Company Limited, Middlesex University, Trent Park, Bransford Road, London N14 4YZ.

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THE MONDAY REVIEW
The Independent 15 March 1999

NEW FILMS

CENTRAL STATION (15)
Director: Walter Salles
Starring: Fernanda Montenegro, Vinícius de Oliveira
Rio's teeming rail terminus serves as the effective launchpad for Walter Salles's Oscar-nominated Brazilian fable. A road-movie of sorts, *Central Station* trails Fernanda Montenegro's retired schoolmarm and her abandoned nine-year-old charge (played by Vinícius de Oliveira) on a hunt through the badlands of Sertão for the boy's missing father.

The trip takes in all facets of Brazil's disparate, displaced and poverty-stricken culture, yet Salles steadfastly refuses to make any heavy-handed political point here. Instead, his social critique remains implicit, low-down in the mix. The fine, unshowy acting is set off nicely by Walter Carvalho's haunting visuals, as *Central Station* blooms by degrees into a picture that is both intimate and universal. **West End:** Barbican Screen, Clapham Picture House, Curzon Mayfair, Notting Hill Cinema, Renoir, Ritzy Cinema, Screen on the Hill, Virgin Chelsea Local: Croydon Clocktower

PATCH ADAMS (12)
Director: Tom Shadyac
Starring: Robin Williams, Monica Potter
Through the hallowed halls of medical college goes Hunter "Patch" Adams (Robin Williams), a winsome shock-doc who has the patients in stitches while giving a collective hernia to the stuffy establishment. Patch, you see, subscribes to the theory that laughter is the best medicine of all. Idling on your deathbed? Well, here's Patch to stick an enema bulb on his snout and send you off with a smile. Still not happy? No problem: Patch has a whole heap more comedy tricks up the sleeves of his regulation white coat. Still that's Patch Adams: *Awakenings* without the angst, *Dead Poets Society* without the heart. It's like the ultimate distillation of

the ultimate Robin Williams movie: the life sucked out and replaced by syrup. **West End:** ABC Tottenham Court Road, Empire Leicester Square, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Trocadero. And local cinemas

PLEASANTVILLE (12)
Director: Gary Ross
Starring: Tobey Maguire, Reese Witherspoon
See *The Independent Recommends*, right.
West End: Barbican Screen, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Plaza, Ritzy Cinema, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Haymarket, Warner Village West End. And local cinemas

SCHIZOPOLIS (18)
Director: Steven Soderbergh
Starring: Steven Soderbergh
Between Soderbergh's *The Underneath* (a box office bomb) and last year's *Out of Sight* (a hit) came *Schizopolis*: a stop-gap experiment, a beaten retreat into art-house abstraction and evidence, perhaps, of a director in crisis.

Pieced together on a thrift-shop budget, *Schizopolis* is a bit of cinematic crazy-paving. Suburban manners, corporate paranoia, dental hygiene and the rituals of adultery are all deconstructed in energetic, scattergun fashion, though it's finally a shade too film-school wacky to warm to. While *Schizopolis* is undeniably the strangest film in the "American Independence" season that it's headlining, some of the other offerings (*Clockwork Orange*, or Spike Lee's *Four Little Girls*) are more rounded and satisfying. *Eye of God*, *Niagara Niagara* and *Sticky Fingers of Time* are also showing. **West End:** Curzon Soho

AFFLICTION (15)
See *The Independent Recommends*, above.
West End: ABC Shaftesbury Avenue

BELOVED (15)
Jonathan Demme's adaptation of Toni Morrison's multi-layered Pulitzer Prize-winner. Oprah Winfrey's escapee slave struggles to cope with a visitation from a bewitched voodoo child who may (or may not) be the ghost of her dead daughter. Heartfelt acting and a vibrant visual sense pervade over all manner of cracks. **West End:** Ritzy Cinema, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End. And local cinemas

A BUG'S LIFE (U)
A Bug's Life sees humble insect Flik falling in with a raggle-taggle flea circus in an effort to save his community from marauding grasshoppers (headed by Kevin Spacey). The script throws in passably witty gags and the animation proves a feat of technical ingenuity. **West End:** ABC Tottenham Court Road, Clapham Picture House, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Mezzanine, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Plaza, Ritzy Cinema, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End. And local cinemas

FESTEN (THE CELEBRATION) (15)
See *The Independent Recommends*, above.
West End: Chelsea Cinema, Clapham Picture House, Curzon Soho, Screen on Baker Street

HIDEOUS KINKY (15)
Through the teeming orange/red/turquoise backdrop of 1970s Morocco trends Kate Winslet's hippie single-mum, her two daughters unwillingly in tow. Winslet does well with a change-of-pace role as the tale's permanently strung-out, unsated matriarch, and the child stars are startlingly good. **West End:** ABC Swiss Centre, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Renoir, Virgin Fulham Road

HILARY AND JACKIE (15)
Full-throttle playing from Rachel Griffiths and Emily Watson sustains Anand Tucker's warts-and-all biopic of the Du Pré sisters. **West End:** ABC Panton Street, Curzon Soho. Local: Richmond Odeon Studio

HOLY MAN (PG)
Jeff Goldblum plays Ricky, a TV executive. Fearful for his job, Ricky uses spiritual wanderer G (Eddie Murphy) as a frontman on his shopping shop and sales go through the roof. G, in turn, teaches Ricky a few soulful lessons - you know, about life and stuff. Parts of *Holy Man* are funny, but the film never finds the right tone. **Local cinemas**

HOW STELLA GOT HER GROOVE BACK (15)
Essentially this is Shirley Valentine with an Afro-American spin, but Angela Bassett works hard to make an impression among the slideshow of tourist-brochure visuals. **West End:** Virgin Trocadero. And local cinemas

LIFE IS BEAUTIFUL (LA VITA È BELLA) (PG)
In Roberto Benigni's Oscar-nominated comedy he takes centre-stage as a clowning Jewish bookseller in fascist Italy. Spirited off to a death-camp, he strives to convince his son that it's nothing more than an eccentric game. **West End:** Curzon Soho, Curzon Minima, Odeon Kensington, Ritzy Cinema, Screen on the Hill, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Haymarket, Repertory Phoenix Cinema. And local cinemas

PAINTED ANGELS (15)
Jon Sanders' revisionist western revolves around a frontier brothel presided over by Brenda Fricker's no-nonsense madam. Earthy, naturalistic acting goes hand in hand with Gerald Packer's evocative visuals, though the resolutely downbeat handling makes it slow-going at times. **West End:** Renoir

PERDITA DURANGO (18)
Alex De La Iglesia's quasi-sequel to David Lynch's *Wild at Heart* is a strutting caper, tequila-to the gills and running on a kind of posturing wackiness. **West End:** Metro

THE INDEPENDENT RECOMMENDS

THE FIVE BEST FILMS

Festen (15)
Danish director Thomas Vinterberg's superlative black comedy concerns the 60th birthday of a family patriarch who finds himself at the centre of dark secrets that unexpectedly emerge.

The Thin Red Line (15)
Terence Malick returns to the screen after a 20-year absence with a hugely ambitious film about the battle of Guadalcanal. A war movie of a sort, though what that sort might be is uncertain.

Affliction (15)
Paul Schrader's bleak study in fatherhood and fatalism, adapted from Russell Banks's novel, stars Nick Nolte as a man struggling to escape the influence of his violent dad (James Coburn).

Shakespeare in Love (15)
This enjoyable romp (right) suggests how romance fired Shakespeare with the creative inspiration for *Romeo and Juliet*. With a multi-star cast.

Pleasantville (12)
Two Nineties teenagers are magicked into the world of a favourite Fifties sitcom and begin to exert a dramatic influence on its conformist black-and-white idyll. A witty, inventive parable.

THE FIVE BEST PLAYS

Shockheaded Peter (Lyric Hammersmith, London)
The deliciously sinister Struwwelpeter stories meet the macabre Tiger Lillies in a glorious, gorgeously gory evening of music theatre (right). To 10 Apr

Blue Heart (The Pleasance, London)
Bracing comedy and a dark heart in Max Stafford-Clark's exemplary production of Caryl Churchill's playful double-bill. To 21 Mar

Vassa (The Albany, London)
Sheila Hancock as the tight-fisted matriarch leads a triumphant cast in Gorky's comedy. To 27 Mar

The Dispute (The Other Place, Stratford)
Marivaux's mordant 18th-century play about a social experiment is brought to life in this RSC/Lyric Hammersmith co-production. To 29 Mar

Buried Alive (Northcott, Exeter)
Mike Alfreds' crack company, Method and Madness, in a new play by Philip Osment, specialising in matters of the heart. To 27 Mar

THE FIVE BEST SHOWS

Jackson Pollock (Tate Gallery)
Revelatory retrospective for the wild hero of Abstract Expressionism going on Old Master: legendary for his great drip paintings, but widely unknown here for 40 years. To 6 Jun

Portraits by Ingres (National Gallery)
Some of the most intense portraiture ever. Exquisite mixtures of flesh and fabric, dreams of sex and money. To 25 Apr

Monet in the 20th Century (Royal Academy)
The gardens and lily ponds at Giverny dissolve into fiery lights, liquid reflections, depths and voids (right). To 18 Apr

Disasters of War (Wolverhampton Art Gallery)
Three ages of European war through the etchings of Jacques Callot, Goya and Otto Dix. Black-and-white visions from the blackest of times. To 29 Mar

Richard Deacon (Tate Gallery, Liverpool)
"New World Order": more curvaceous assemblages of wood, metal, glass and plastic - some gnostic, some humble - by the Eighties sculptor. To 16 Mar

ANTHONY QUINN DAVID BENEDICT TOM L'URBON

CINEMA

WEST END

ABC PANTON STREET (0870-902 0404) • Piccadilly Circus
Elizabeth 2.15pm, 5.15pm, 8.15pm, 10.15pm
Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels 1.15pm, 3.40pm, 6.10pm, 8.35pm, 10.15pm
ABC PICCADILLY (0171-287 4322) • Piccadilly Circus
Elizabeth 1.30pm, 3.55pm, 6.15pm, 8.35pm, 10.15pm
Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels 1.15pm, 3.40pm, 6.10pm, 8.35pm, 10.15pm
ABC SHAFTESBURY AVENUE (0870-902 0402) • Leicester Square
Affliction 1.10pm, 3.40pm, 6.05pm, 8.30pm, 10.15pm
Elizabeth 1.45pm, 5.30pm, 8.10pm
ABC SWISS CENTRE (0870-902 0403) • Leicester Square
Elizabeth 1.10pm, 3.40pm, 6.05pm, 8.30pm, 10.15pm
Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels 1.15pm, 3.40pm, 6.10pm, 8.35pm, 10.15pm
ABC TOTTENHAM COURT ROAD (0870-902 0414) • Tottenham Court Road
A Bug's Life 1.40pm, 4.10pm, 6.40pm, 9.10pm
Elizabeth 1.10pm, 3.40pm, 6.05pm, 8.30pm, 10.15pm
ABC BARBICAN SCREEN (0171-638 8891) • Moorgate
Central Station 3pm, 6.15pm, 8.40pm
Pleasantville 6pm, 8.40pm
CHELSEA CINEMA (0171-351 3742) • Sloane Square
Festen 2pm, 4.15pm, 6.30pm, 8.50pm
CLAPHAM PICTURE HOUSE (0171-498 3323) • Clapham Common
Central Station 1.45pm, 4.20pm, 7pm, 9.20pm
Festen 2.15pm, 4.30pm, 6.50pm, 9.10pm
Shakespeare in Love 1.30pm, 3.55pm, 6.10pm, 8.35pm, 10.15pm
CURZON MAYFAIR (0171-269 1720) • Green Park
Central Station 1.30pm, 3.45pm, 6.15pm, 8.45pm
CURZON MINIMA (0171-369 1723) • Hyde Park Corner
Knightsbridge La Vita è Bella 3pm, 8.00pm
CURZON SOHO (0171-734 2255) (12noon-6pm) • Leicester Square
Elizabeth 1.45pm, 4.20pm, 6.45pm, 9.10pm
Festen 2.15pm, 4.30pm, 6.50pm, 9.10pm
Shakespeare in Love 1.30pm, 3.55pm, 6.10pm, 8.35pm, 10.15pm
EMPIRE LEICESTER SQUARE (0870-888990) • Leicester Square
Meet Joe Black 3.40pm, 7.20pm
Patch Adams 1.10pm, 3.40pm, 6.10pm, 8.40pm, 11.15pm
The Prince of the City 1.15pm, 3.45pm, 6.15pm, 8.45pm
GATE NOTTING HILL (0171-727 4043) • Notting Hill
The Thin Red Line 1.10pm, 4.30pm, 7.50pm
METRO (0171-734 1506) • Piccadilly Circus
Elizabeth 1.45pm, 4.20pm, 6.45pm, 9.10pm, 11.15pm
Festen 2.15pm, 4.30pm, 6.50pm, 9.10pm
Shakespeare in Love 1.30pm, 3.55pm, 6.10pm, 8.35pm, 10.15pm
NOTTING HILL CORONET (0171-727 6705) • Notting Hill
Central Station 3.30pm, 6pm, 8.40pm
ODEON CAMDEN TOWN (0870-050007) • Camden Town
A Bug's Life 1.40pm, 4.10pm, 6.40pm, 9.10pm
Elizabeth 1.10pm, 3.40pm, 6.05pm, 8.30pm, 10.15pm
Patch Adams 1.45pm, 4.20pm, 6.45pm, 9.10pm, 11.15pm
The Thin Red Line 1.15pm, 3.45pm, 6.15pm, 8.45pm, 10.15pm
ODEON KENSINGTON (0870-050007) • High Street
Kensington Patch Adams 1.45pm, 4.20pm, 6.45pm, 9.10pm, 11.15pm
Shakespeare in Love 1.30pm, 3.55pm, 6.10pm, 8.35pm, 10.15pm
The Thin Red Line 1.15pm, 3.45pm, 6.15pm, 8.45pm, 10.15pm
VIRGIN FULHAM ROAD (0870-907 0711) • South Kensington
Elizabeth 1.45pm, 4.20pm, 6.45pm, 9.10pm, 11.15pm
Festen 2.15pm, 4.30pm, 6.50pm, 9.10pm
Shakespeare in Love 1.30pm, 3.55pm, 6.10pm, 8.35pm, 10.15pm
The Thin Red Line 1.15pm, 3.45pm, 6.15pm, 8.45pm, 10.15pm
VIRGIN TROCADERO (0870-907 0712) • Piccadilly Circus
Elizabeth 1.45pm, 4.20pm, 6.45pm, 9.10pm, 11.15pm
Festen 2.15pm, 4.30pm, 6.50pm, 9.10pm
Shakespeare in Love 1.30pm, 3.55pm, 6.10pm, 8.35pm, 10.15pm
The Thin Red Line 1.15pm, 3.45pm, 6.15pm, 8.45pm, 10.15pm
VIRGIN TROCADERO (0870-907 0713) • Piccadilly Circus
Elizabeth 1.45pm, 4.20pm, 6.45pm, 9.10pm, 11.15pm
Festen 2.15pm, 4.30pm, 6.50pm, 9.10pm
Shakespeare in Love 1.30pm, 3.55pm, 6.10pm, 8.35pm, 10.15pm
The Thin Red Line 1.15pm, 3.45pm, 6.15pm, 8.45pm, 10.15pm
VIRGIN TROCADERO (0870-907 0714) • Piccadilly Circus
Elizabeth 1.45pm, 4.20pm, 6.45pm, 9.10pm, 11.15pm
Festen 2.15pm, 4.30pm, 6.50pm, 9.10pm
Shakespeare in Love 1.30pm, 3.55pm, 6.10pm, 8.35pm, 10.15pm
The Thin Red Line 1.15pm, 3.45pm, 6.15pm, 8.45pm, 10.15pm
VIRGIN TROCADERO (0870-907 0715) • Piccadilly Circus
Elizabeth 1.45pm, 4.20pm, 6.45pm, 9.10pm, 11.15pm
Festen 2.15pm, 4.30pm, 6.50pm, 9.10pm
Shakespeare in Love 1.30pm, 3.55pm, 6.10pm, 8.35pm, 10.15pm
The Thin Red Line 1.15pm, 3.45pm, 6.15pm, 8.45pm, 10.15pm
VIRGIN TROCADERO (0870-907 0716) • Piccadilly Circus
Elizabeth 1.45pm, 4.20pm, 6.45pm, 9.10pm, 11.15pm
Festen 2.15pm, 4.30pm, 6.50pm, 9.10pm
Shakespeare in Love 1.30pm, 3.55pm, 6.10pm, 8.35pm, 10.15pm
The Thin Red Line 1.15pm, 3.45pm, 6.15pm, 8.45pm, 10.15pm
VIRGIN TROCADERO (0870-907 0717) • Piccadilly Circus
Elizabeth 1.45pm, 4.20pm, 6.45pm, 9.10pm, 11.15pm
Festen 2.15pm, 4.30pm, 6.50pm, 9.10pm
Shakespeare in Love 1.30pm, 3.55pm, 6.10pm, 8.35pm, 10.15pm
The Thin Red Line 1.15pm, 3.45pm, 6.15pm, 8.45pm, 10.15pm
VIRGIN TROCADERO (0870-907 0718) • Piccadilly Circus
Elizabeth 1.45pm, 4.20pm, 6.45pm, 9.10pm, 11.15pm
Festen 2.15pm, 4.30pm, 6.50pm, 9.10pm
Shakespeare in Love 1.30pm, 3.55pm, 6.10pm, 8.35pm, 10.15pm
The Thin Red Line 1.15pm, 3.45pm, 6.15pm, 8.45pm, 10.15pm
VIRGIN TROCADERO (0870-907 0719) • Piccadilly Circus
Elizabeth 1.45pm, 4.20pm, 6.45pm, 9.10pm, 11.15pm
Festen 2.15pm, 4.30pm, 6.50pm, 9.10pm
Shakespeare in Love 1.30pm, 3.55pm, 6.10pm, 8.35pm, 10.15pm
The Thin Red Line 1.15pm, 3.45pm, 6.15pm, 8.45pm, 10.15pm
VIRGIN TROCADERO (0870-907 0720) • Piccadilly Circus
Elizabeth 1.45pm, 4.20pm, 6.45pm, 9.10pm, 11.15pm
Festen 2.15pm, 4.30pm, 6.50pm, 9.10pm
Shakespeare in Love 1.30pm, 3.55pm, 6.10pm, 8.35pm, 10.15pm
The Thin Red Line 1.15pm, 3.45pm, 6.15pm, 8.45pm, 10.15pm
VIRGIN TROCADERO (0870-907 0721) • Piccadilly Circus
Elizabeth 1.45pm, 4.20pm, 6.45pm, 9.10pm, 11.15pm
Festen 2.15pm, 4.30pm, 6.50pm, 9.10pm
Shakespeare in Love 1.30pm, 3.55pm, 6.10pm, 8.35pm, 10.15pm
The Thin Red Line 1.15pm, 3.45pm, 6.15pm, 8.45pm, 10.15pm
VIRGIN TROCADERO (0870-907 0722) • Piccadilly Circus
Elizabeth 1.45pm, 4.20pm, 6.45pm, 9.10pm, 11.15pm
Festen 2.15pm, 4.30pm, 6.50pm, 9.10pm
Shakespeare in Love 1.30pm, 3.55pm, 6.10pm, 8.35pm, 10.15pm
The Thin Red Line 1.15pm, 3.45pm, 6.15pm, 8.45pm, 10.15pm
VIRGIN TROCADERO (0870-907 0723) • Piccadilly Circus
Elizabeth 1.45pm, 4.20pm, 6.45pm, 9.10pm, 11.15pm
Festen 2.15pm, 4.30pm, 6.50pm, 9.10pm
Shakespeare in Love 1.30pm, 3.55pm, 6.10pm, 8.35pm, 10.15pm
The Thin Red Line 1.15pm, 3.45pm, 6.15pm, 8.45pm, 10.15pm
VIRGIN TROCADERO (0870-907 0724) • Piccadilly Circus
Elizabeth 1.45pm, 4.20pm, 6.45pm, 9.10pm, 11.15pm
Festen 2.15pm, 4.30pm, 6.50pm, 9.10pm
Shakespeare in Love 1.30pm, 3.55pm, 6.10pm, 8.35pm, 10.15pm
The Thin Red Line 1.15pm, 3.45pm, 6.15pm, 8.45pm, 10.15pm
VIRGIN TROCADERO (0870-907 0725) • Piccadilly Circus
Elizabeth 1.45pm, 4.20pm, 6.45pm, 9.10pm, 11.15pm
Festen 2.15pm, 4.30pm, 6.50pm, 9.10pm
Shakespeare in Love 1.30pm, 3.55pm, 6.10pm, 8.35pm, 10.15pm
The Thin Red Line 1.15pm, 3.45pm, 6.15pm, 8.45pm, 10.15pm
VIRGIN TROCADERO (0870-907 0726) • Piccadilly Circus
Elizabeth 1.45pm, 4.20pm, 6.45pm, 9.10pm, 11.15pm
Festen 2.15pm, 4.30pm, 6.50pm, 9.10pm
Shakespeare in Love 1.30pm, 3.55pm, 6.10pm, 8.35pm, 10.15pm
The Thin Red Line 1.15pm, 3.45pm, 6.15pm, 8.45pm, 10.15pm
VIRGIN TROCADERO (0870-907 0727) • Piccadilly Circus
Elizabeth 1.45pm, 4.20pm, 6.45pm, 9.10pm, 11.15pm
Festen 2.15pm, 4.30pm, 6.50pm, 9.10pm
Shakespeare in Love 1.30pm, 3.55pm, 6.10pm, 8.35pm, 10.15pm
The Thin Red Line 1.15pm, 3.45pm, 6.15pm, 8.45pm, 10.15pm
VIRGIN TROCADERO (0870-907 0728) • Piccadilly Circus
Elizabeth 1.45pm, 4.20pm, 6.45pm, 9.10pm, 11.15pm
Festen 2.15pm, 4.30pm, 6.50pm, 9.10pm
Shakespeare in Love 1.30pm, 3.55pm, 6.10pm, 8.35pm, 10.15pm
The Thin Red Line 1.15pm, 3.45pm, 6.15pm, 8.45pm, 10.15pm
VIRGIN TROCADERO (0870-907 0729) • Piccadilly Circus
Elizabeth 1.45pm, 4.20pm, 6.45pm, 9.10pm, 11.15pm
Festen 2.15pm, 4.30pm, 6.50pm, 9.10pm
Shakespeare in Love 1.30pm, 3.55pm, 6.10pm, 8.35pm, 10.15pm
The Thin Red Line 1.15pm, 3.45pm, 6.15pm, 8.45pm, 10.15pm
VIRGIN TROCADERO (0870-907 0730) • Piccadilly Circus
Elizabeth 1.45pm, 4.20pm, 6.45pm, 9.10pm, 11.15pm
Festen 2.15pm, 4.30pm, 6.50pm, 9.10pm
Shakespeare in Love 1.30pm, 3.55pm, 6.10pm, 8.35pm, 10.15pm
The Thin Red Line 1.15pm, 3.45pm, 6.15pm, 8.45pm, 10.15pm
VIRGIN TROCADERO (0870-907 0731) • Piccadilly Circus
Elizabeth 1.45pm, 4.20pm, 6.45pm, 9.10pm, 11.15pm
Festen 2.15pm, 4.30pm, 6.50pm, 9.10pm
Shakespeare in Love 1.30pm, 3.55pm, 6.10pm, 8.35pm, 10.15pm
The Thin Red Line 1.15pm, 3.45pm, 6.15pm, 8.45pm, 10.15pm
VIRGIN TROCADERO (0870-907 0732) • Piccadilly Circus
Elizabeth 1.45pm, 4.20pm, 6.45pm, 9.10pm, 11.15pm
Festen 2.15pm, 4.30pm, 6.50pm, 9.10pm
Shakespeare in Love 1.30pm, 3.55pm, 6.10pm, 8.35pm, 10.15pm
The Thin Red Line 1.15pm, 3.45pm, 6.15pm, 8.45pm, 10.15pm
VIRGIN TROCADERO (0870-907 0733) • Piccadilly Circus
Elizabeth 1.45pm, 4.20pm, 6.45pm, 9.10pm, 11.15pm
Festen 2.15pm, 4.30pm, 6.50pm, 9.10pm
Shakespeare in Love 1.30pm, 3.55pm, 6.10pm, 8.35pm, 10.15pm
The Thin Red Line 1.15pm, 3.45pm, 6.15pm, 8.45pm, 10.15pm
VIRGIN TROCADERO (0870-907 0734) • Piccadilly Circus
Elizabeth 1.45pm, 4.20pm, 6.45pm, 9.10pm, 11.15pm
Festen 2.15pm, 4.30pm, 6.50pm, 9.10pm
Shakespeare in Love 1.30pm, 3.55pm, 6.10pm, 8.35pm, 10.15pm
The Thin Red Line 1.15pm, 3.45pm, 6.15pm, 8.45pm, 10.15pm
VIRGIN TROCADERO (0870-907 0735) • Piccadilly Circus
Elizabeth 1.45pm, 4.20pm, 6.45pm, 9.10pm, 11.15pm
Festen 2.15pm, 4.30pm, 6.50pm, 9.10pm
Shakespeare in Love 1.30pm, 3.55pm, 6.10pm, 8.35pm, 10.15pm
The Thin Red Line 1.15pm, 3.45pm, 6.15pm, 8.45pm, 10.15pm
VIRGIN TROCADERO (0870-907 0736) • Piccadilly Circus
Elizabeth 1.45pm, 4.20pm, 6.45pm, 9.10pm, 11.15pm
Festen 2.15pm, 4.30pm, 6.50pm, 9.10pm
Shakespeare in Love 1.30pm, 3.55pm, 6.10pm, 8.35pm, 10.15pm
The Thin Red Line 1.15pm, 3.45pm, 6.15pm, 8.45pm, 10.15pm
VIRGIN TROCADERO (0870-907 0737) • Piccadilly Circus
Elizabeth 1.45pm, 4.20pm, 6.45pm, 9.10pm, 11.15pm
Festen 2.15pm, 4.30pm, 6.50pm, 9.10pm
Shakespeare in Love 1.30pm, 3.55pm, 6.10pm, 8.35pm, 10.15pm
The Thin Red Line 1.15pm, 3.45pm, 6.15pm, 8.45pm, 10.15pm
VIRGIN TROCADERO (0870-907 0738) • Piccadilly Circus
Elizabeth 1.45pm, 4.20pm, 6.45pm, 9.10pm, 11.15pm
Festen 2.15pm, 4.30pm, 6.50pm, 9.10pm
Shakespeare in Love 1.30pm, 3.55pm, 6.10pm, 8.35pm, 10.15pm
The Thin Red Line 1.15pm, 3.45pm, 6.15pm, 8.45pm, 10.15pm
VIRGIN TROCADERO (0870-907 0739) • Piccadilly Circus
Elizabeth 1.45pm, 4.20pm, 6.45pm, 9.10pm, 11.15pm
Festen 2.15pm, 4.30pm, 6.50pm, 9.10pm
Shakespeare in Love 1.30pm, 3.55pm, 6.10pm, 8.35pm, 10.15pm
The Thin Red Line 1.15pm, 3.45pm, 6.15pm, 8.45pm, 10.15pm
VIRGIN TROCADERO (0870-907 0740) • Piccadilly Circus
Elizabeth 1.45pm, 4.20pm, 6.45pm, 9.10pm, 11.15pm
Festen 2.15pm, 4.30pm, 6.50pm, 9.10pm
Shakespeare in Love 1.30pm, 3.55pm, 6.10pm, 8.35pm, 10.15pm
The Thin Red Line 1.15pm, 3.45pm, 6.15pm, 8.45pm, 10.15pm
VIRGIN TROCADERO (0870-907 0741) • Piccadilly Circus
Elizabeth 1.45pm, 4.20pm, 6.45pm, 9.10pm, 11.15pm
Festen 2.15pm, 4.30pm, 6.50pm, 9.10pm
Shakespeare in Love 1.30pm, 3.55pm, 6.10pm, 8.35pm, 10.15pm
The Thin Red Line 1.15pm, 3.45pm, 6.15pm, 8.45pm, 10.15pm
VIRGIN TROCADERO (0870-907 0742) • Piccadilly Circus
Elizabeth 1.45pm, 4.20pm, 6.45pm, 9.10pm, 11.15pm
Festen 2.15pm, 4.30pm, 6.50pm, 9.10pm
Shakespeare in Love 1.30pm, 3.55pm, 6.10pm, 8.35pm, 10.15pm
The Thin Red Line 1.15pm, 3.45pm, 6.15pm, 8.45pm, 10.15pm
VIRGIN TROCADERO (0870-907 0743) • Piccadilly Circus
Elizabeth 1.45pm, 4.20pm, 6.45pm, 9.10pm, 11.15pm
Festen 2.15pm, 4.30pm, 6.50pm, 9.10pm
Shakespeare in Love 1.30pm, 3.55pm, 6.10pm, 8.35pm, 10.15pm
The Thin Red Line 1.15pm, 3.45pm, 6.15pm, 8.45pm, 10.15pm
VIRGIN TROCADERO (0870-907 0744) • Piccadilly Circus
Elizabeth 1.45pm, 4.20pm, 6.45pm, 9.10pm, 11.15pm
Festen 2.15pm, 4.30pm, 6.50pm, 9.10pm
Shakespeare in Love 1.30pm, 3.55pm, 6.10pm, 8.35pm, 10.15pm
The Thin Red Line 1.15pm, 3.45pm, 6.15pm, 8.45pm, 10.15pm
VIRGIN TROCADERO (0870-907 0745) • Piccadilly Circus
Elizabeth 1.45pm, 4.20pm, 6.45pm, 9.10pm, 11.15pm
Festen 2.15pm, 4.30pm, 6.50pm, 9.10pm
Shakespeare in Love 1.30pm, 3.55pm, 6.10pm, 8.35pm, 10.15pm
The Thin Red Line 1.15pm, 3.45pm, 6.15pm, 8.45pm, 10.15pm
VIRGIN TROCADERO (0870-907 0746) • Piccadilly Circus
Elizabeth 1.45pm, 4.20pm, 6.45pm, 9.10pm, 11.15pm
Festen 2.15pm, 4.30pm, 6.50pm, 9.10pm
Shakespeare in Love 1.30pm, 3.55pm, 6.10pm, 8.35pm, 10.15pm
The Thin Red Line 1.15pm, 3.45pm, 6.15pm, 8.45pm, 10.15pm
VIRGIN TROCADERO (0870-907 0747) • Piccadilly Circus
Elizabeth 1.45pm, 4.20pm, 6.45pm, 9.10pm, 11.15pm
Festen 2.15pm, 4.30pm, 6.50pm, 9.10pm
Shakespeare in Love 1.30pm, 3.55pm, 6.10pm, 8.35pm, 10.15pm
The Thin Red Line 1.15pm, 3.45pm, 6.15pm, 8.45pm, 10.15pm
VIRGIN TROCADERO (0870-907 0748) • Piccadilly Circus
Elizabeth 1.45pm, 4.20pm, 6.45pm, 9.10pm, 11.15pm
Festen 2.15pm, 4.30pm, 6.50pm, 9.10pm
Shakespeare in Love 1.30pm, 3.55pm, 6.10pm, 8.35pm, 10.15pm
The Thin Red Line 1.15pm, 3.45pm, 6.15pm, 8.45pm, 10.15pm
VIRGIN TROCADERO (0870-907 0749) • Piccadilly Circus
Elizabeth 1.45pm, 4.20pm, 6.45pm, 9.10pm, 11.15pm
Festen 2.15pm, 4.30pm, 6.50pm, 9.10pm
Shakespeare in Love 1.30pm, 3.55pm, 6.10pm, 8.35pm, 10.15pm
The Thin Red Line 1.15pm, 3.45pm, 6.15pm, 8.45pm, 10.15pm
VIRGIN TROCADERO (0870-907 0750) • Piccadilly Circus
Elizabeth 1.45pm, 4.20pm, 6.45pm, 9.10pm, 11.15pm
Festen 2.15pm, 4.30pm, 6.50pm, 9.10pm
Shakespeare in Love 1.30pm, 3.55pm, 6.10pm, 8.35pm, 10.15pm
The Thin Red Line 1.15pm, 3.45pm, 6.15pm, 8.45pm, 10.15pm
VIRGIN TROCADERO (0870-907 0751) • Piccadilly Circus
Elizabeth 1.45pm, 4.20pm, 6.45pm, 9.10pm, 11.15pm
Festen 2.15pm, 4.30pm, 6.50pm, 9.10pm
Shakespeare in Love 1.30pm, 3.55pm, 6.10pm, 8.35pm, 10.15pm
The Thin Red Line 1.15pm, 3.45pm, 6.15pm, 8.45pm, 10.15pm
VIRGIN TROCADERO (0870-907 0752) • Piccadilly Circus
Elizabeth 1.45pm, 4.20pm, 6.45pm, 9.10pm, 11.15pm
Festen 2.15pm, 4.30pm, 6.50pm, 9.10pm
Shakespeare in Love 1.30pm, 3.55pm, 6.10pm, 8.35pm, 10.15pm
The Thin Red Line 1.15pm, 3.45pm, 6.15pm, 8.45pm, 10.15pm
VIRGIN TROCADERO (0870-907 0753) • Pic

5:00 S Newa and Short (5604450) **2:00 Whiteford**
(S) (T) (86279383) **7:30 Milkshake** (S) (26556569) **7**
(26844641) **8:30 Daphne** (S) (44363878) **8:00** **Wendy's House** (T) (44363878) **8:00** **Wendy's House** (T) (44363878) **8:00**
8:00 **What is Good for You?** (24667629) **8:30** **Rusee**
Grant (Powers) (42033860) **9:30** **The Crown** **Wendy's House** (T) (44363878) **8:00**
11:00 **Leads** (S) (4667071) **12:00** **Surreal** **Beauty** (S) (70225800)
(T) (26540281) **12:30** **Family Affairs** (S) (T) (70225800)
1:00 **The Bold and the Beautiful** (S) (T) (70225800)
The Roseanne Show (S) (7022427) **2:00** **My**
God (S) (68039501) **2:30** **God Almighty** (S) (68039501)

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CUTTING EDGE (p. 34, *right*) Let's cut to the chase in essence, this documentary about AIDS isn't new. From the first-person accounts of traumatic experiences that you see on TV, what does distinguish it is some fairly novel black-and-white autography, with the camera zooming into many faces, the consistent parts a eunuch, and of clinking metallic soundcheck, heavy with images of death. There's a rather well-sounding interview with a woman who asks questions about what's inside the bullet, AIDS—dead things feels like, from the perspective of the shooter, the shot at and the arms trader. There are some really doctored shots that bullets do to people's bodies



conscience or religious analysis.

The Last of the Hidden Things (See C4) followed 30 years in the history of the Panama Indians of the Mito Grosso in Brazil. In 1957, Claudio Villas Boas set out to locate the Panara, a tribe which had never encountered whites men, with a view to saving them from the worst effects of contact with western civilisation. His effort was wasted; within a few years of the arrival a road had been torn through their territory and 80 per cent of the Panara had died of disease, the rest ill.

Now the survivors have returned to their homeland. This is, you would think, a happy ending, but Adrian Cowell's film seemed reluctant to admit this. They no longer live in harmony with the forest, the commentary explained - indeed they had had to "harness" nature - and they had lost their "tranquillity".

This sounds bad. But the "harmony" they had enjoyed seemed to include cultivating crops and killing games where do you draw the dividing line between that sort of harmony and nasty old "civilising"? Furthermore, the uniqueness of the Panara seemed to consist largely of having probably killed every stranger they had encountered. Mourning the death of that beast set everything with the film's idealism about the brotherhood of man ("In the emptiness of the jungle, my human nature is

enhanced to a state-ego culture contrasted interestingly with some of the remnants elsewhere of the Panara while Rodeolans - a tribe who nobody mourns - in Rodeolans, See BECA. David Dimbleby repeatedly referred to the whites as "living in a time-warrior" - presumably there is some point in its development, when a culture stops being crudely or desperately primitive, and starts being humanely reasonable).

In fact, calling an animal or the remnants old-fashioned is just his first guess - there they were justifying themselves as the O.K. Empire, men whose word about their bond and who went about to shirk the responsibility (killing several million Africans) was to do. The first part of the trilogy about the Unlenten Destruction of Independence and its aftermath illustrates a bizarre cleft of culture, evidenced by excursions of myth and research; that made for a film in this amounted to a fib.

In *The Establishment* (See C4), photographer Nick Danziger set out to trace the network of relationships which, he reckons, runs Britain. "The master of Trinity College has married to a family who has married to the baro who is at the centre of the arts establishment. His wife knows the art collector. His wife knows the senior officer is British commander in chief." A conspiracy theories go. There are any lines as makes certain

Channel 5

[illegible]